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Lords row crisis hits Hague

Cranborne sacked for deal with Labour

By Philip Webster and James Landale

WILLIAM HAGUE'S leadership of the Conservative Party was in crisis last night after he was forced to sack Viscount Cranborne, Tory leader in the House of Lords.

Lord Cranborne was dismissed after Mr Hague publicly rejected the deal he had done with the Government over Lords reform. It would have allowed 91 hereditary peers to survive the Bill stripping them of their voting rights. That made his position untenable.

But before Lord Cranborne went, Mr Hague was humiliated in front of Conservative peers in the Lords. He went to a meeting, also attended by Lord Cranborne, to discuss the draft agreement with the Government and other parties that had been hammered out over recent weeks.

However, the peers backed Lord Cranborne rather than Mr Hague, who had torn up the deal in the full glare of Prime Minister's question-time. Nearly every peer who spoke demonstrated strong support for Lord Cranborne, sources said. Hague supporters said that was because Lord Cranborne had arrived first.

Mr Hague showed great courage in the face of overwhelming hostility. Although sacked, Lord Cranborne would have resigned in any case, friends said last night. Mr Hague's spokesman said that Lord Cranborne had been trying to "bounce" the party into a stance the leadership in the Commons was not prepared to accept. "He went too far without getting the sup-



"Sometimes I feel very lucky not to be in politics"

port of the Shadow Cabinet," a Tory source said.

Mr Hague was backed by Tory MPs after explaining his tactics to them at a meeting last night. But privately they were aghast that he had lost Lord Cranborne in such chaotic circumstances.

The sequence of events began when Mr Hague stunned MPs by lifting the veil on the secret talks behind the scenes in the Lords. Lord Irvine, the Lord Chancellor, Lady Jay, the Lords leader, Lord Cranborne, and a number of senior Liberal Democrat and crossbench peers, had been working on a compromise plan.

Lord Cranborne, whose family motto is "Late but in earnest", went along with a deal under which the Government would have allowed one tenth of the existing 750 peers to stay on, along with 14 others elected by the Upper House as officials, the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Queen's representative and the Earl Marshal,

who is responsible for ceremony. The 75 would have been elected by peers of their own parties according to their present proportions.

The Lords leader apparently believed the deal was acceptable because it meant that the Government was giving way on the hereditary principle for the first stage, and also ensured that there would have had to be a second stage to remove the final hereditaries. The Lords had feared that Tony Blair, having scrapped the hereditaries, would have dragged his feet for years over the second stage.

Lord Cranborne went to see Mr Blair in Downing Street last week about the deal. He assured him of his backing but said that he did not know whether he could carry the Shadow Cabinet.

Lord Weatherill, the former Commons Speaker and now convenor of the crossbench peers, was planning to announce the proposal at a press conference yesterday and the Government was later proposing to announce its support at the daily afternoon Downing Street briefing of lobby correspondents. Lord Cranborne had won the support of his frontbench colleagues in the Lords at lunchtime.

But Mr Hague - furious that the agreement had apparently gone so far - decided to blow it out of the water at question-time. He told the Commons he would not back a "horse-trading" pact.

Mr Blair provoked uproar when he told MPs he understood that Lord Cranborne had already accepted the agreement on behalf of the Conservative party. Mr Hague disclosed that



Lord Cranborne admitted he had behaved "quite outrageously" in going behind William Hague's back

Lord Irvine had been making approaches to the Conservative peers on the issue "for some weeks". The Tory leader welcomed "this huge climb-down", but said Tories were "not prepared to acquiesce in that change because we are

not prepared to join forces with him on major constitutional change based on no comprehensive plan or principle". Mr Blair confirmed the approaches had been made and added: "I thought we had the agreement of the Leader of

your party in the House of Lords. Indeed, I believe, we have the agreement". The Liberal Democrats later confirmed they had been involved in talks with Labour, with Lord Rodgers having met Lady Jay as recently as yesterday morning. But a senior Lib-Dem source said: "There was never any illusion that William Hague was on board with this. The hereditary peers know they have to find a dignified and sensible way out. The

Continued on page 2, col 6

'I admit I ran in like an ill-trained spaniel'

By Roland Watson, Political Correspondent

A CHASTENED Lord Cranborne admitted last night that he had been "sacked for running in like an ill-trained spaniel". Admitting that he had behaved "quite outrageously" in going behind William Hague's back to negotiate a deal over the future of the House of Lords, he said: "I thought we had an extraordinarily good deal."

Lord Cranborne revealed that less than an hour after being sacked, he had offered his own resignation. "But he (Hague) said he would rather sack me and I think that in his place I would agree with him."

Although he conceded that his tactics were wrong, Lord Cranborne insisted the fruits of his talks with the Prime Minister were right for the "Tory party". He insisted it was a "good deal", adding not only that he would do it again but also that he would support the proposals if and when they came before the Lords.

He said: "Politics is a rough old game. If you have a thin skin you should not be in it. I have had a whale of a time but at the end of the day you have to do two things: every morning you should get up and say you could be sacked today. It's a very good exercise in humility. You also have to say, 'Oh Lord, please give me wisdom'. None of us have a monopoly on wisdom. I may have got it wrong but I think I would try it again. I got it right."

Fears over play script vetting

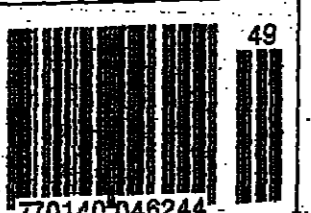
The Jerwood Foundation, which made a life-saving donation of £3 million to save the Royal Court Theatre, has upset opponents of the deal by admitting that it has vetted some play scripts. Page 8

Hornby changes track to China

Hornby, the model railways maker, has moved all its production to China in an attempt to defend itself against the soaring pound. Page 27

Table with 2 columns: Category and Price. Includes TV & Radio, Weather, Crosswords, Letters, etc.

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Brussels moves to harmonise taxes through majority voting

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

PLANS to remove the veto from European Union decisions on taxes will be tabled at a new round of EU treaty negotiations, due to be held in Finland next September.

The move to start the machinery for a swift revamp of the 1997 treaty of Amsterdam, confirmed by EU officials yesterday, will compound pressure on Britain to fall into line with its EU partners on common taxation policies and other areas. The Amsterdam treaty, itself a revision of Maastricht, will come into force only when ratified by all states next spring.

The gathering momentum for treaty change contrasted with statements from the Government on Franco-German calls this week for abolishing the veto on taxes. Tony Blair's spokesman dismissed the idea as a non-starter that did not

represent anyone's official policy and which had a "chance in hell" of being adopted.

A spokesman for the Finnish Government, which takes over the EU presidency from Germany next July, said yesterday that extending majority voting into taxation matters

"There is no means now of wishing this continental firestorm away. It has to be confronted."

Leading article, page 23

would be high on the agenda of the treaty-making Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) scheduled to meet in the Lapland town of Saariselka in September. "Majority voting on taxation is not a question of if but of when," he said.

The plan for an early negotiation emerged as the European Commission yesterday sig-

nalled that it could back the German and French proposals at the next EU treaty change. Jacques Santer, the Commission President, noted that the Commission had wanted an end to the veto over taxation at Amsterdam but had been overruled by a majority of Governments. A Commission spokeswoman said that it could "look at the possibility if the occasion of another IGC arises". That moment now seems unexpectedly close.

In an indication of the thinking in Brussels, Sir Leon Brittan, Vice-President of the Commission, was upgraded yesterday by Mario Monti, the Taxation Commissioner, for telling the British media there would not be any move to majority voting on taxes.

France, Germany and several other member states see majority voting as a way of pushing through harmonised taxes - deemed desirable in monetary union - against the oppo-

German boss quits Rover

By Carl Mortished

THE German chairman of Rover resigned unexpectedly yesterday, accepting the blame for the problems that have dogged the car manufacturer during his two-year tenure.

Dr Walter Hasselkus, 56, said that offering his resignation had been painful but it was time to "stand up and be counted".

His departure was announced as BMW gave details of a £2 billion plan to rescue Rover's ailing Longbridge plant. Thousands of Rover workers will hear details of the agreement today. David Bower, Rover's personnel director, said up to 3,000 workers had made inquiries about voluntary redundancy terms.

Dr Hasselkus will be succeeded by Professor Werner Sämman, manager of BMW's engines and chassis division.

Double act, pages 6, 7

Lafontaine profile, page 21

Anatole Kaletsky, page 22

Letters, page 22

Blame me, page 27

Legal aid reform to end 'fat cat' lawyer fees

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

THE £1.6 billion legal aid scheme is to be scrapped in a revamp of the legal system which will see an end to waste, "fat cat" fees and no-hopie cases.

Wealthy criminals - drug traffickers or fraudsters - will have to pay for their own trial defence costs under the shake-up announced by Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor.

Divorcing couples fighting over property and assets will be able to use lawyers on a "no win, no fee" basis rather than having to pay them win or lose. The reforms were outlined in a

White Paper heralding the greatest changes to legal services in 50 years.

A system of fixed-price contracts awarded only to specialist lawyers who guarantee a quality service will replace the "quandary" legal aid scheme.

Lord Irvine wants to expand no win, no fee work and sweep away the last of lawyers' restrictive practices by allowing all - not just barristers - to take cases in all courts. The reforms are aimed at improving access to justice for millions of middle-income Britain who are disqualified from legal aid but unable to afford high legal fees.

The Law Society welcomed the extension of no win, no fee work generally,

but in matrimonial disputes it would "directly contradict Government policy to encourage the settlement of divorce disputes through mediation".

But the White Paper. Modernising Justice, says: "We see no reason to prevent people from choosing to fund those cases by a conditional fee, rather than having to pay their lawyer, win or lose."

The Bill was introduced yesterday and is due for second reading on December 14 and could receive Royal Assent by July.

Lord Irvine promised his reforms would "transform the legal landscape" by bearing down on its twin bugbears

of delay and cost. "There is a vast unmet legal need in Britain," he said. "Think of all those urban estates where people have no advice centre, no neighbourhood solicitor, nowhere to find help in disputes about housing or benefits, or debt or immigration."

The key proposals are: in place of legal aid, a Community Legal Service for help with civil problems, and a Criminal Defence Service for help with criminal problems.

Lord Irvine insisted that he was not capping the legal aid budget, but was redirecting the money.

Value for money, page 12

Mikimoto advertisement featuring cultured pearls and diamond earrings. Text: 'Cultured pearls and diamond earrings in 18ct gold'. Price: 'from £1,600'. Address: '179 New Bond Street, London - 0171 629 5300. New York - South Coast Plaza - Tokyo - Paris'.

Vertical advertisement for 'Rovers' love for Kidd is ebuffed'. Includes a watch image and 'JITH MOVEMENT' text.

Pension a gu...

But seriously, Hague innovation is bad for sketchwriters

Our parliamentary sketchwriters from four broadsheet newspapers staggered reeling from the Chamber at 3.30pm, after Prime Minister's Questions yesterday. For the first time in years, watching this session we had learnt something new. Our shock was palpable.

"What can we say?" I asked. "Where's the joke?"

"There's no joke," gasped the *Guardian's* man. "That was actually important. Hague said something we didn't know."

"You mean it matters?" I said. "Well, what can we

make of that? It was serious. That's not our job."

"Maybe that's the joke," ventured *The Guardian's* "Shock, horror — serious new fact emerges at PM's Questions."

Perhaps the overriding impression was of confusion on all sides — and in the Press Gallery. William Hague had lobbed across at the Prime Minister a firework of uncertain explosive capacity, type or aim. Was this a grenade, a squib or an exploding boomerang? Whose eyebrows would this singe?

Certainly Blair took the attack coolly. When Mr Hague

announced that Labour had been trying to seal a deal in which a hundred hereditary peers would stay on, the Prime Minister was almost alone in not looking surprised. And he had his reply ready: that Viscount Cranborne, the Tory Leader in the Lords, had actually agreed to this plan.

Hague, who has six questions, would not let the subject drop. Yet he had little to add and would not respond on Cranborne.

Tory faces behind Hague looked bewildered. Some Labour backbenchers looked

pleased as Blair pressed his charges; others looked blank. Several leftwingers were looking angry.

This confused wrangle over a mysterious charge and counter-charge was the more perplexing because, as the day began, Mr Blair had seemed in an awkward corner over Europe, the Germans, tax-harmonisation and the Paymaster General's private finances.

We had assumed that Hague would have pressed these issues — but, on all of them, there was silence.

When Theresa May (C. Maidenhead) and Richard Spring (C. W. Suffolk) prodded Blair over Europe, and Geoffrey Robinson, the Prime Minister sounded less confident than he did over hereditary peers.

But only Alex Salmond real-

ly floored him. The Scottish National Party Leader told the Prime Minister that, in last Thursday's Scottish by-election for the European Parliament, Labour had managed "to come third in a two-horse race".

Speaking in the Irish Dail, Mr Salmond said, the PM had been "so positive and complimentary" about the prospects for a small, independent Celtic nation in a big world; but speaking at the Scottish by-election, Blair had poured scorn on Scottish aspirations to emulate Ireland.

Could this explain, he

asked, with that sadistic relish that so rattles Labour at Westminster, "why the Prime Minister got a standing ovation in the Dail, and the bum's rush in Scotland?"

Blair was reduced to retorting crossly, "it'll be him getting the bum's rush". Were Salmond allowed a second question, he could have replied "No, him" — Blair responding "No, him".

But most MEPs' minds were elsewhere, in a spin over House of Lords reform. Leaving our gallery above the Chamber, sketchwriters were pitched into an extraordinary

scene in the room outside. There are normally two or three rival spin-doctors present at such a time, attended by respectful little audiences of journalists, quietly spinning in their chosen corners of the room.

Now it was mayhem. Tory and Labour spinners were spinning so violently, and journalists whirling around them in so agitated a fashion, that the scene was reminiscent of those meteorological maps of a complex multiple-triplex system in the Gulf of Mexico. What could this mean?



How Cranborne's deal came unstuck

By James Landale and Philip Webster

WHEN Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, arrived in Downing Street for talks with Tony Blair last week, he could have been forgiven for feeling confident.

After months of sustained pressure on the Government, the veteran political fixer was on the verge of forcing the Government into a compromise worthy of his ancestors. By threatening legislative warfare in the Lords, he had cajoled Labour into saving the political skins over the short term of almost 100 hereditary peers. In return, the Tories would accept the expulsion of the remaining 650 hereditaries.

THE OFFER ON THE TABLE

In return for Tory co-operation on the Bill scrapping the voting rights of hereditary peers, 91 of them would be allowed to survive: 75 of them — one tenth of the present 750 — would be elected by their parties on the basis of their current strength in the hereditary House. On that calculation the Conservative peers would elect 42 of their number; the Labour peers, just two; the Liberal Democrats, three and the cross-benchers 28. A further group of 14 hereditary peers would be elected by the whole House to serve in various official capacities. The final hereditary survivors

would be the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Queen's representative in the Upper House, and the Earl Marshal, who is in charge of ceremony. All 91 would stay on in the Lords until the Government's second stage reforms — a newly constituted, part elected, part nominated chamber — was brought in.

That would leave the Lords with 214 Tory peers, 161 Labour, the Liberal Democrats 48 and the cross-benchers 148. The Prime Minister would then appoint enough life peers to bring the Labour benches up to parity with the Conservatives.

Talks between senior peers of all parties had been going on for months and at last a deal was on the table. The last thing he expected was to have the rug pulled from under his feet. The idea had been the brainchild of the Earl of Carnarvon, a cross-bench peer and racing manager for the Queen.

Baroness Jay of Paddington, Lord Richard's replacement, picked up the ideas when she was appointed last summer and secret consultations continued. As fears grew over the last few months of substantial Tory trench warfare against Labour's legislative programme, ministers began to think that some sort of deal should be struck. This fear

was made even starker by the rebellious Tory peers voting down an unprecedented five times the Government's plans for reforming the European elections earlier this month.

Lord Weatherill then went to Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, who heads the Cabinet committee on Lords reform. They held a series of talks, edging ever closer to agreement.

However, a meeting of seven senior members of the Shadow Cabinet had a week before rejected the deal, despite Lord Cranborne's protestations. Nevertheless, by the end of last week, the Govern-

ment was confident a deal could be reached.

This was prompted by Lord Cranborne's decision to see the Prime Minister last week to finalise details. It is understood that Lord Cranborne told Mr Blair that while he favoured the deal, he could not be confident of bringing the Shadow Cabinet with him.

Lord Cranborne nevertheless arranged to put the proposals before a meeting of all Tory backbench peers yesterday in the Messes Room of the House of Lords. At a lunch time meeting yesterday, Lord Cranborne secured the backing of Tory frontbench peers.

But as he prepared to meet his backbenchers, William Hague told the Commons that the deal was off.

At almost the same time, Lord Weatherill held a press conference in the Lords outlining the essentials of the proposed deal.

Shortly after Prime Minister's Questions, Lord Cranborne held meetings with senior Tory peers. At 3.30pm, the meeting of Tory backbenchers began. Lord Cranborne told the peers the deal he had secured for them — even though he did not have the support of Mr Hague — and received their backing.

Fifteen minutes later, Mr Hague arrived flanked by Michael Ancram, the Tory party chairman, and Peter Lilley, the deputy leader.

Amid heated scenes, Mr Hague spoke to Tory peers for two hours. Mr Hague insisted there should be no deal without firm proposals for further, second stage reforms. "Although the meeting was against him, he did not flinch," one peer said.

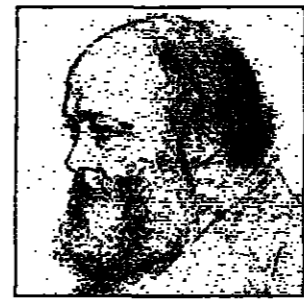
When the meeting broke up, Mr Hague, Lord Cranborne, and Mr Ancram held a meeting. At about 6pm, Mr Hague left for an emergency meeting of the Shadow Cabinet. Minutes later, it emerged that Lord Cranborne had been sacked. Only last week, a Tory source in the Lords told *The Times*: "Robert [Cranborne] is feeling pretty bruised. But he will last the distance."



On his father's death Lord Cranborne will become Marquess of Salisbury and inherit the magnificent Hatfield House

Sudden exit a mere blip in 400 years of noble service

Mark Inglefield on the well-liked 'toff' whose uncompromising dedication will be sorely missed



Salisbury: past example

FOR some men — those not born into one of the great political dynasties — Viscount Cranborne's sudden exit from front-line politics would be a humiliating experience.

But as the Earl of Onslow remarked yesterday, following the heated meeting that sealed his fate, Lord Cranborne's dismissal was just another chapter in his august family's history. "The Cecils," announced Lord Onslow, referring to Lord Cranborne's family name, "have been around for 400 years".

He could have said "and will no doubt be around for another 400". The Cecils have held high office since Shakespeare first started scribbling plays. Among his ancestors are a string of leaders of the House of Lords. Indeed, as late as the 19th century, his great, great grandfather Lord Salisbury was Prime Minister.

Perhaps tonight, after he has cleared his desk in the House of Lords, Lord Cranborne will return to his Chelsea town house and contemplate his grandfather, "Bobby" Salisbury. He resigned from the Government over Munich in 1936 and then, after returning to favour and serving in the Macmillan administration after the war, resigned again.

This is not to say Lord Cranborne is an arrogant man. In public, and in private, he is charming and engaging — the type of "toff" to whom ordi-

nary people usually warm. He possesses a sharp intellect and well honed political brain, which will be missed in the Cabinet.

But Lord Cranborne, who was educated at Eton and Christchurch, Oxford, has always been above the everyday rough and tumble of politics. Being born into wealth, title and position — he will become the Marquess of Salisbury and inherit the magnificent Hatfield House on his father's death — he has never been hampered by the sort of compromises that bedevil most career politicians.

After he contested and won the safe Tory seat Dorset South — a constituency that encompassed one of his family's homes, Cranborne Lodge — he was pleased to place his principles before assent up the greasy poll. Arriving at Westminster, he steadfastly refused

to act like an ambitious new boy, and it was not until 1982 that he was offered a government job, as a parliamentary Private Secretary.

But one of the conditions of taking the job was that he kept his objections to Jim Prior's Northern Ireland Bill to himself. He said he would, but after a weekend's cogitation in the country he resigned. Mrs Thatcher, who had already marked him down as not "one of us", was seriously put out.

This ended his career in the Commons. A few years later he quit altogether to take up one of his father's titles, Baron Essendon in the County of Rut-

land, to gain his place in the House of Lords, so exile is a state he has known before, and one from which he has returned before.

He proved this by backing John Major when the future Prime Minister was beginning his political career. This showed great foresight. After the 1992 election, Mr Major invited Cranborne to become Parliamentary Secretary at Defence and, when he submitted himself for re-election as leader, Mr Major chose Cranborne to run his campaign. It was a dirty battle, and he occasionally discarded his aristocratic demeanour to whip up the stragglers.

As leader of the House of Lords, Lord Cranborne took a pragmatic view. He was willing to let go of the hereditary voting rights to create a stronger second chamber. He was prepared to go along with the thinking of some of the more thoughtful Tory peers, and exchange its ancient composition for greater powers. One thing he would not do was allow Tony Blair to fill the chamber with appointed "cronies", and his fight with the Government was primarily to ensure any reform was based on principle, not on opportunism.

Although no longer the Tory's mouthpiece in the Lords, Lord Cranborne will have more than likely continue to exert influence over reforms to the other place. When considering his future he will think back to the part played by his family in Britain's history. And he will conclude, no doubt, that his rude departure from government yesterday was a blip, and that his family's destiny of service and influence are should be honoured.

Peers' leader sacked

Continued from page 1

only person who's not interested in finding a dignified way out is William Hague."

Lord Cranborne had been showing signs of wanting to be more conciliatory over reform in recent weeks. Mr Hague had already over-ruled him over his attitude to the European elections Bill, defeated last month.

Lord Onslow, a Tory, said the peers' meeting had fully

supported Lord Cranborne, and the issue clearly now has huge potential to embarrass the Tory leadership in the Commons. Lord Weatherill will continue to press an amendment to the Lords Bill setting out the deal and it may well be successful, a huge slap in the face for Mr Hague.

The Prime Minister's spokesman later refused to disclose any detailed timetable of the talks with Lord Cranborne.

Sacking shows error of judgment

For William Hague to have to sack his leader in the Lords and to alienate many of his own Tory peers is more than just carelessness. It smacks of gross misjudgment. Having recently harried the Government effectively over Lords reform, Mr Hague yesterday succeeded in throwing away a strong position. He forgot that the interests of hereditary peers and the Conservative Party are not the same, and in the process he has been outmanoeuvred by Tony Blair.

The whole affair says a lot about the very different character of the two Houses. Lord Cranborne has always felt better than anyone in the Commons, but in the end, he overreached himself in his talks with the Government and could not take Mr Hague with him.

Stripped of all the fascinating tidbits and froings, the story is really about how to enact the first stage of Lords reform with, as Mr Blair put it



missed. In particular, they want to feel that the replacement House retains some of the character and courtesies of the current one.

The new plan — discussed by party leaders in the Lords and forming the basis of the cross-bench peers' initiative — would retain a tenth of the current total of hereditary peers during the transition until long-term reform is complete. Some 75 would be elected by each party group on the basis of current numbers, together with 14 elected by the whole House to serve as officers of the House, plus the Lord Chamberlain and Earl Marshal. The Prime Minister would create enough life peers to achieve parity with the Tory peers, but Labour would still be well short of an overall majority. A number of Liberal Democrat peers would also be created.

As such, this would be an appealing deal for not only many crossbench peers but also a number of Tories who have floated similar ideas.

The crossbenchers talked yesterday of allowing a consensus to be built. For the Government, this idea offers the chance — and no more than a chance — of reducing opposition to its Lords bill. The concession on saving some hereditary peers for a period is, in practice, marginal since nine-tenths of the hereditaries would disappear and most of the remaining tenth of active hereditaries would have been converted into life peers.

Mr Hague's rejection of the deal may make little difference in practice. Whether or not the proposal is included in the Government Bill, the crossbenchers have said they will introduce a similar amendment which has a strong chance of passing. Mr Hague is right that abolition of hereditaries is an act of faith since no one knows what is being proposed in the long-term. But in the short-term, he has played into the Government's hands and cast doubt on his own judgment as party leader.

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Historists 'stole

New

A £30,000 laser machine revolutionises document writing

Helen Tomblow

THE DDTY, aged three, is the first laser printer to have a new laser engine which will enable it to print at a speed of 100 characters per second. This is a significant improvement on the current standard of 30 characters per second. The DDTY is also the first laser printer to have a built-in font manager which will allow users to change the font size and style of their text. This is a useful feature for those who need to produce documents with a professional appearance. The DDTY is also the first laser printer to have a built-in paper tray which will allow users to print directly from a computer without the need for a separate printer. This is a convenient feature for those who need to print frequently. The DDTY is also the first laser printer to have a built-in paper tray which will allow users to print directly from a computer without the need for a separate printer. This is a convenient feature for those who need to print frequently.

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New hope for burns victims

A £30,000 laser machine revolutionises treatment, writes Helen Rumbelow



Dot and Nigel Smith with Connie, who was one of the first people to benefit from the laser machine after trapping her hand behind a radiator pipe

CONNIE SMITH, aged three, is one of the first burns victims to benefit from a new laser machine that will enable one in six to avoid painful surgery. The machine will revolutionise burns treatment, according to new research presented yesterday. The British-made machine is far better than doctors at the notoriously difficult problem of judging how bad a burn is, said Anthony Roberts, head of the burns unit at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

It could save around 3,000 of the 20,000 people admitted with burns injuries every year in Britain from skin grafts and will be of most benefit to children who scar more easily. There are at present such machines, which cost £30,000, in only two of the 23 specialist burns units in the country.

Even experts such as Mr Roberts, with 25 years' experience, get it wrong in a quarter of cases, giving people with superficial burns unnecessary grafts which are painful, scarring and can restrict movement. Instead the machine is able to "see" through the surface of the burn to detect how much tissue is still alive under-

neath. It does this by bouncing laser beams off the skin to assess how much blood is moving, showing on the doctor's monitor how much skin is dead and needs grafting and how much is still healthy and will heal itself. It is painless and does not touch the sensitive burned skin.

In the pilot study at Stoke Mandeville the machine saved

six out of 40 patients from skin grafts that risk leaving disfiguring scars.

Connie had trapped her hand behind a radiator pipe when reaching for a toy and her burns looked so severe her GP sent her straight to the hospital's burns unit.

"You think — a burn, it's going to be a bit pink and sore, but this looked dreadful, with

terrible deep blisters," said her mother, Dot Smith from Westcott, Buckinghamshire.

Timing is crucial in burns diagnosis as the faster a skin graft is done the less risk of wet-like scars. After 24 hours the doctors decided Connie had a "deep burn" that needed skin grafting, but then let the machine make its diagnosis. It produced a "surgical

map" of her hand, showing on the screen a bright red patch signalling that blood was moving and tissue was healthy.

"I was so relieved," said her father, Nigel. "I had had skin grafting once and knew how painful the donor site is. It's wonderful that this can help reduce the effects of scarring, especially for children."

Mr Roberts said that although the machine cost £30,000 it saved on operations costing around £3,000 each and much unnecessary suffering.

At present it is only operating at Stoke Mandeville and in Newcastle, two of the 23 specialist burns units in the country. "The implication is that all burns units should be using it," said Mr Roberts.

Tories attack 'trickery' on waiting lists

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government announced a fall in hospital waiting lists yesterday for the sixth consecutive month, but admitted that the length of time patients were waiting to see a consultant was growing.

While the total number waiting for an operation fell during October by 20,106 to 1,193,483, the number waiting for more than 12 weeks to see a specialist has grown by 16 per cent since June to 437,000.

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, said the figures confounded the doubters who claimed the lists could not be cut. "Now they have fallen for six months in a row and are falling faster than ever before," he said. "The relentless war on waiting is now delivering the goods better than at any time in the history of the health service."

Both Conservative and Liberal Democrat health spokesmen said the fall in the waiting list for operations was possible only because more patients were having to wait longer to see a specialist to find out if they needed surgery.

"There is now a waiting list to join the waiting list,"

said Philip Hammond, a Tory spokesman. "The trick is to make patients wait longer to see a specialist. Until they have had an outpatient consultation they are not counted on the official waiting list. Patients are now experiencing record delays to see a consultant to get onto the waiting list."

Evan Harris, the Liberal Democrat spokesman, said that the outpatient waiting lists were growing even though there were fewer referrals by GPs. The true waiting list figure, including those waiting for an appointment, had increased by 945,000 he said.

Baroness Hymans, a junior Health Minister, later conceded that there was an increase in waiting times to see a consultant. "There is an increase in long waits for some outpatient specialties," she said. "We are still seeing 96 per cent of outpatients within six months, and four out of five patients within 13 weeks."

Doctors 'too free' in asthma diagnosis

BY HELEN RUMBLOW

MOST of a dramatic increase in the number of young children with asthma may be because doctors are overdiagnosing the illness, according to research presented yesterday. Mike Silverman, Professor of Child Health at Leicester University, said that cases had doubled in the past decade, with five in five infants now a sufferer. Attacks that were so severe that the child had to be taken to hospital had gone up by a half. As a result, infants were now using 80 per cent more asthma drugs than in 1990, when the research study of 3,000 under-fives began in Leicester.

"We are seeing two things: firstly, that there probably are real increases in the amount of wheezing, but also increased awareness of asthma by parents and doctors," he said. "This so-called asthmatisation may be feeding off itself, so that doctors are now being too free with the label because in the past they had been criticised for leaving it undiagnosed."

They found that 21 per cent of children now had diagnosed asthma, as compared to 12 per cent in 1990, the British Thoracic Society was told in London. A quarter of parents reported wheeziness in their child, compared with an eighth eight years ago.

Rat-run residents accept a truce

BY A CORRESPONDENT

AN UNEASY truce was called last night between motorists and wealthy residents who set up a blockade of luxury cars to stop their street being used as a short cut.

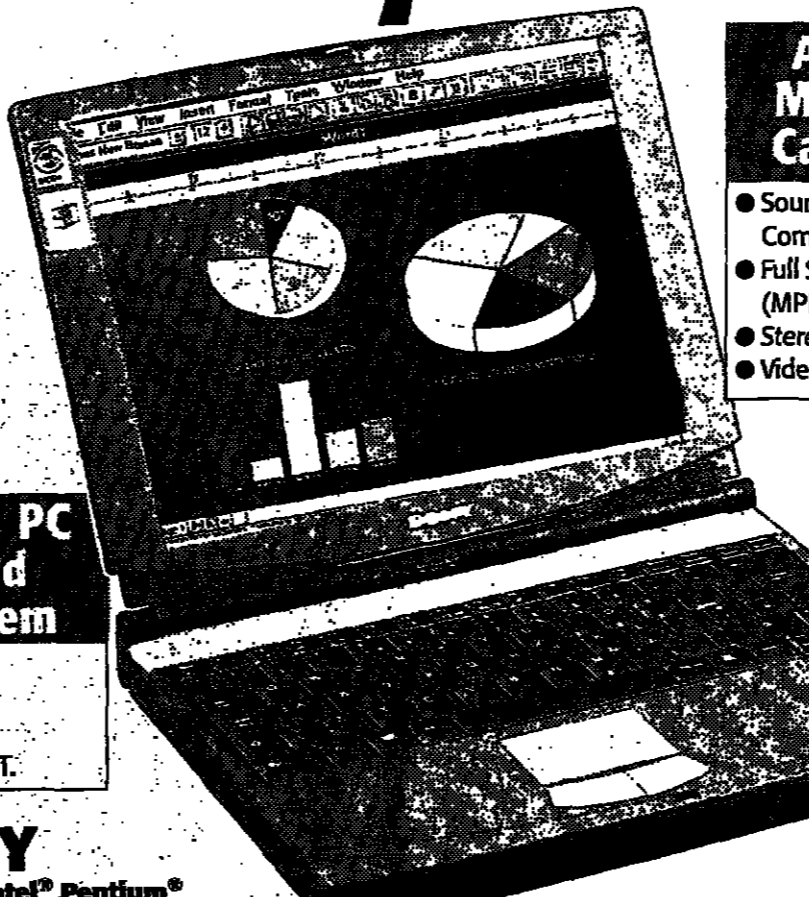
Residents of Woodland Drive in Hove, East Sussex, were lifting their elaborate chain of BMWs, Mercedes and even a Rolls-Royce after a three-day protest that caused chaos and provoked vigilante attacks on their vehicles.

Residents had been outraged that their calls for traffic-calming measures were ignored down by Brighton and Hove Council. The council refused to talk to residents or implement any measures until they stopped their direct action.

Yesterday the Woodland Drive Action Committee accepted a proposal by the council to stop the protest and, after a cooling-off period, talk to the transport committee. John Dimick, the protest leader, an international marketing consultant, said: "We want a meeting some time before Christmas."

A council spokesman said that traffic-calming measures for the street were voted down last month by the area's Conservative councillors. Residents say traffic has increased since the opening of the Brighton by-pass.

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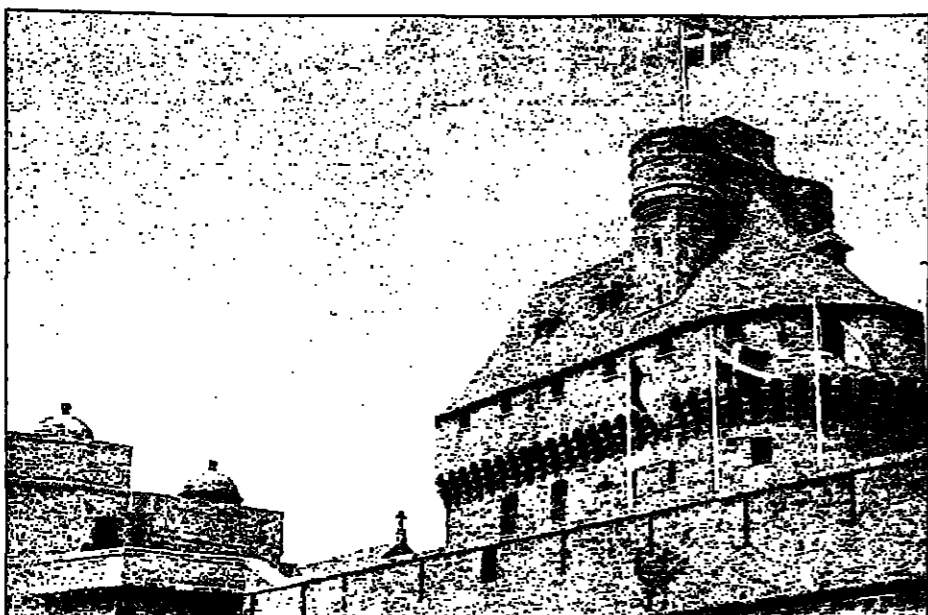
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BRITAIN AND EUROPE: SUMMIT WITH STYLE



France has opted for the traditional summit venue of the château at St Malo



A statue in St Malo of Robert Surcouf, a privateer who once hounded British shipping, is a reminder of past Anglo-French difficulties

Chirac savours older flavours

IN REPLY to last year's Anglo-French "Cool Britannia" summit, intended by new Labour to showcase the best of modern British style, France will today host a summit with the flavour of old France: offering ancient buildings, vintage wine, antique furniture and a gourmet menu created by no fewer than 12 top French chefs.

If Tony Blair's first Anglo-French "summit in the sky" on the 38th floor of Canary Wharf in London was a symbolic exercise in crisp modernity and "le style anglais", then today's "summit by the sea" in St Malo, on the Brittany coast, is an equally calculated statement about the enduring qualities of French culture.

Where Britain called in Sir Terence Conran to furnish Canary Wharf in November 1997 with co-ordinated sofas, tables of blonde ash with zinc-wrapped ferro-concrete legs and complicated designer ashtrays, France has opted to ship in Louis-Philippe-style furniture, Limoges porcelain and tablecloths from the Elysée Palace to give the required ancient régime feel to the occasion.

Where Sir Terence painted the walls in subtle shades of green and ochre and illuminat-

Cool Britannia meets the ancien régime, reports Ben Macintyre

ed the pop-art lithographs on the walls with discreet uplighters, the halls of the great 15th century château in St Malo, where the delegations will meet today and tomorrow, are lined with 18th-century tapestries and adorned with grand chandeliers.

In place of Britain's trendy plastic vases, vast suede armchairs and angular flower-arrangements by Paula Pryke, the summiters will find themselves surrounded by such artefacts as a 19th-century carved figurehead of a pirate, 18th-century religious engravings and a picture of the room where Chateaubriand was born, made from the writer's hair, by his hairdresser. This you would not find in a Conran restaurant.

Before the French delegation arrived in Britain last year, Downing Street vowed to "teach the French a thing or

two about style"; France has responded in kind, but the style is, for the most part, several hundred years older, and perhaps likely to endure several hundred years longer.

President Chirac swallowed the "Cool Britannia" line (and his seared bass) with relish: "All this gives an image of a young country, of a dynamic Britain. I'm very impressed," he remarked on emerging from his crash course in what might be called minimalist Mandelsonian chic.

But rather than bring in, say, French designer Philippe Starck to compete on the same terms, M Chirac has instead opted for older French values, for it is hard to imagine anywhere further removed from the steel and concrete of Canary Wharf than the ancient fortified port of St Malo.

Nowhere will the contrast be more apparent than on the plate, for President Chirac, who is a renowned trencherman, has personally selected the menu for tonight's banquet, thrown open the Elysée cellars and brought in an association of Breton chefs known as the Escapes Gourmandes, or "gourmet ports of call", to create it.

MENU FOR THE FRANCO-BRITISH SUMMIT
 Saint Malo, December 3, 1998
 Noix de Coquilles Saint-Jacques avec Ciboulette et Jambon Sec
 Scalops with chives and cured ham
 Pot au Feu de Pigeonneaux au Foie Gras avec jeunes Légumes et ravioles d'herbes
 Squab pot au feu with foie gras with spring vegetables and herb ravioli
 Plateau de Fromages
 Selection of cheese
 Gâteau Chateaubriand
 Champagne Taittinger 90, Coulée de Serrant 95, Château Magdeleine 88

For the last summit, Downing Street recruited Anton Escalera, 28, a half-Spanish, half-Dutch chef who rustled up the very last word in the new British cuisine, including chilled pumpkin soup, sea bass and blueberry cheesecake. There is nothing "nouvelle" or international about the classic French "grande bouffe" being laid on by M Chirac: *noix de coquilles Saint-Jacques avec ciboulette et jambon sec* (scallops with chives and cured ham); *pot au feu de pigeonneaux au foie*

gras avec jeunes légumes et ravioles d'herbes (squab pot au feu with foie gras, served with spring vegetables and herb ravioli); cheeses; and finally a gâteau Chateaubriand, whose ingredients remain a closely guarded secret.

The Elysée sommelier has selected 1990 Taittinger champagne, a Loire wine, Coulée de Serrant 1995, and a Bordeaux, Château Magdeleine 1988. A powerful Breton apple *eau de vie* will finish off the dinner, and, one suspects, a number of the diners.

The accent of the summit is on tradition, but the ramparts and streets of St Malo are not all as venerable as they may appear, for most of the town had to be rebuilt, replicating what stood there before, after Allied bombers reduced 80 per cent of the buildings to rubble in 1944 when it was under the Nazis.

That is not the only potentially tricky symbolism in the French choice of venue: the Surcouf rotunda, where the two delegations dine tonight, is named after Robert Surcouf, a French privateer who hounded British shipping in the early 19th century; among those who were held prisoner in the

castle dungeons was one Captain Stradling, the model for Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*. On a more conciliatory diplomatic note, however, the French hosts can point out that St Malo is itself named after a Welsh monk, Mac Law, who became the bishop of the town, then a saint and finally gave it his name, thanks to the Breton pronunciation.

Britain and France may well have sources of disagreement about today, not least the Franco-German push for European Union tax harmonisation, but there is little doubt that the British participants are likely to be as impressed by their old-style French reception as the French delegation was wowed by the Conranisation of Canary Wharf.

France is making its own style statement: if the brand has worked for centuries, then why rebrand it, let alone wrap it in zinc?

But mindful, as ever, of appearing to downgrade the Franco-German relationship in favour of Britain, one French official wondered whether the pomp of the reception for Mr Blair might overshadow this week's Franco-German summit in Potsdam.

Former rivals to share embassies

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN and France are to move in together to share the costs of setting up embassies in Africa.

A century after the Fashoda incident, which marked the extreme point of Anglo-French rivalry in the scramble for Africa, Tony Blair and President Chirac will announce the first pooling of diplomatic effort between Paris and London in a continent where they have pursued divergent interests.

At the St Malo summit tomorrow the two leaders will outline plans for co-location of embassies in some of the poorer former French colonies, which Britain has served from regional centres.

It is similar to the sharing of diplomatic buildings that Britain pioneered with Germany five years ago, especially in former Soviet republics.

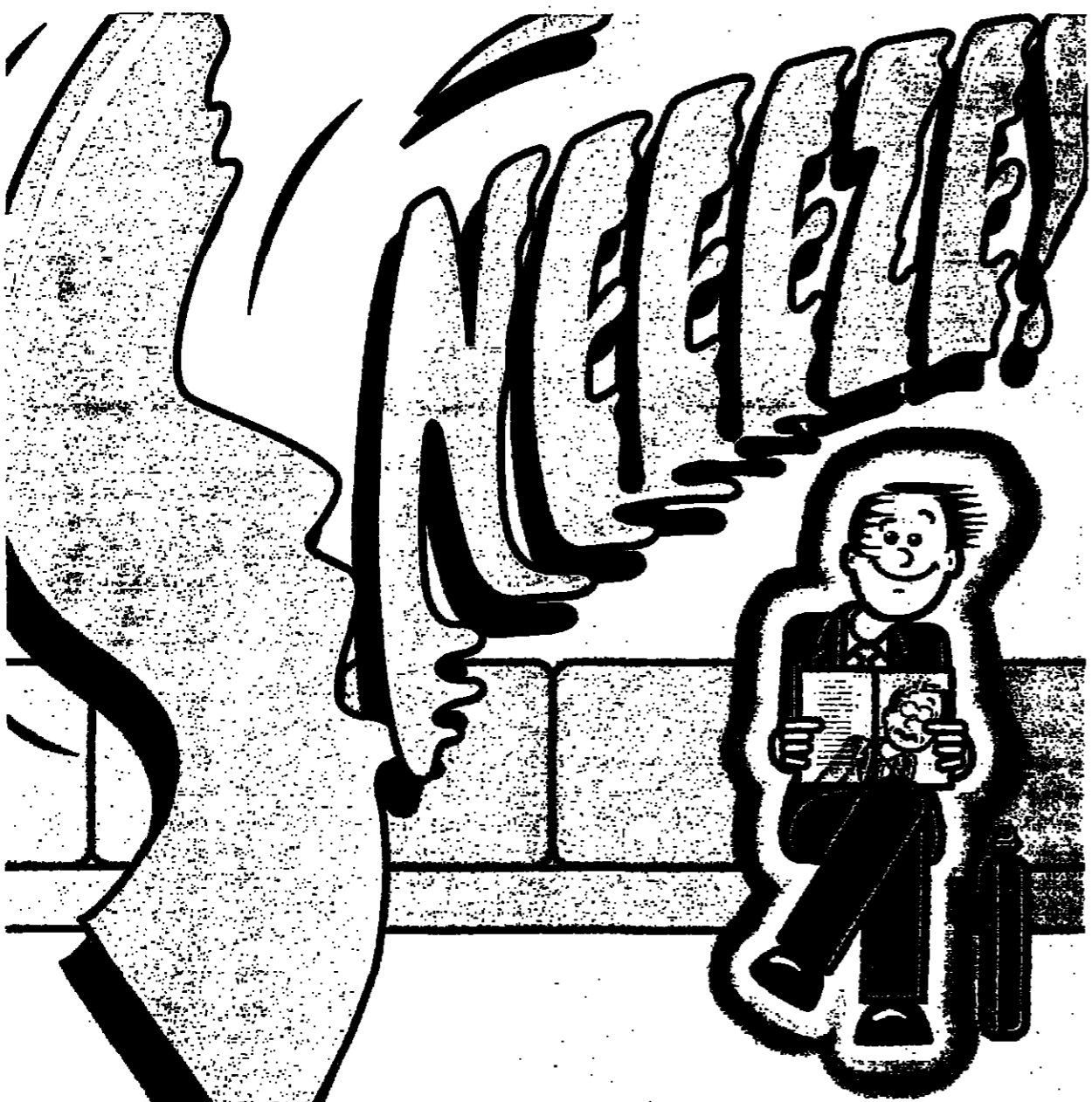
British and French consular staff will share the task of

looking after each other's citizens. Embassy running costs will also be shared. But the two countries, fierce rivals in the competition for exports, will keep separate trade and commercial missions.

Three new British missions are to be set up in Africa: in Guinea, Mali and Gabon, where Britain wants to share facilities with France. These "mini-missions", linked by computer to larger regional centres, may not be staffed by British diplomats but will rely on local staff or retired British expatriates.

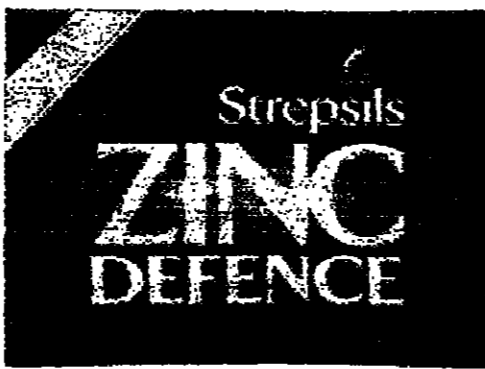
"It's not just a question of renting a basement room in the French embassy," an official said. "But it will be much cheaper than opening a full embassy with all the traditional running costs."

However, the Foreign Office insisted that this is not the same as joint diplomacy.



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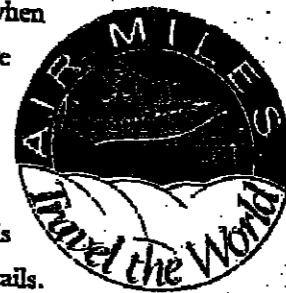


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Ernest Jones

THE DIAMOND & WATCH SPECIALIST

Theatre's £3m sponsor admits vetting scripts

Royal Court accused of a sellout over deal to put backer's name up in lights, writes Dalya Alberge

A LIFE-SAVING donation of £3 million to the Royal Court Theatre has angered the arts world, which fears that the theatre's artistic freedom will be compromised.

It was announced yesterday that the Jerwood Foundation's name will go up in lights on the front of the London theatre, and the two auditoriums will carry the sponsor's name. Opponents of the deal have also been unmoved by the foundation's admission that it has vetted some scripts.

Alan Grieve, chairman of the foundation, yesterday guaranteed that there would be no artistic intervention. But he said that he had read some scripts for the new playrights season which the Jerwood has sponsored for two years.

The theatre was at risk of going into liquidation unless it found £3 million to complete its £25.8 million redevelopment. Under the deal, the stone and ironwork lettering on the Sloane Square frontage will remain but a new neon sign will read "The Jerwood Theatres at the Royal Court

Theatre". The auditoriums will be called the Jerwood Theatre Downstairs and the Jerwood Theatre Upstairs.

The playwright Caryl Churchill has said that such prominence for the sponsor will bring the theatre into "disrepute". Victoria Todd, director of the National Campaign for the Arts, said that the Royal Court had "sold out".

But Ian Rickson, artistic director of the Royal Court, said that the was not "caving

in" to its sponsor because the theatre would retain its name. The foundation had suggested that it become the Royal Court Jerwood Theatre.

"The brand name is intact. We now can focus on the important things — the work," Mr Rickson said.

There will be fears, however, that the trailblazing work for which the Royal Court is renowned will be inhibited by the sponsor.

Mr Grieve said that he had read some scripts for the Jerwood New Playwrights Season. It was not a question of vetoing work, he said, but perhaps suggesting when "more work is needed".

"We ask to read scripts occasionally. I see no reason why that should upset writers," he said. If the Jerwood had "anxieties", the matter was discussed with the artistic director and the theatre board. "In no way would we go further than that."

Often the foundation was seeking reassurance: in one play, *Fair Game*, he felt that he could relax when he was

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Alan Grieve: he promised no artistic intervention.

to that a teenage gang rape would take place offstage.

Mr Rickson, who took over from Stephen Daldry, who masterminded the redevelopment, said: "In the past, if Stephen Daldry felt that there was a play that could be breaking the law, then he talked that through with Alan on a personal basis. That was to do with his relationship with Alan and not the policy of the theatre."

"I can absolutely say now

that the Jerwood Foundation nor anybody else has had or will ever have any artistic interference with the Royal Court Theatre.

"There will be a contractual clause ensuring this freedom, allowing our theatre to remain independent and pioneering."

The foundation has supported the arts and education since it was established by John Jerwood, a pearl merchant, who died in 1991.

New rota 'forced nurses to leave'

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

A CHANGE in shift patterns amounted to sexual discrimination against nurses with young families, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Two nurses who were forced to leave their jobs after being told that they could no longer work nights exclusively say that the decision forced them to choose between their families and their careers.

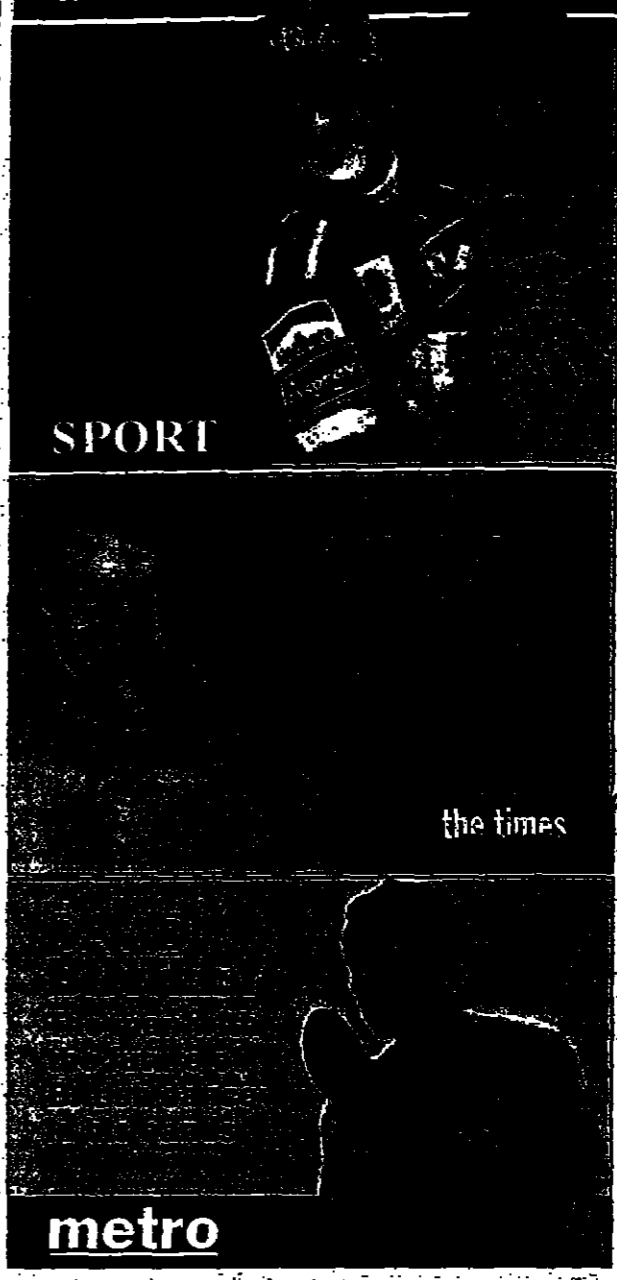
The tribunal was told that, for ten years, Christine Clunie, 40, and Alison Hale, 30, ran tight schedules juggling their jobs around their family lives.

Their 12-hour shifts ended at 8am, allowing them to drive home to feed and dress their young children in time for school. They then slept until it was time to pick their children up and spent a few hours with them before going back to work.

The women claim their lives became unmanageable when their employer, Wiltshire Health Care NHS Trust, introduced compulsory rotating shifts, which meant that they had to work morning, evening and night shifts.

Yesterday Mrs Clunie and Mrs Hale, who both worked at St John's Hospital in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, appeared at an industrial tribunal in Bristol claiming sexual discrimination and marriage discrimination. The hearing continues.

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES



SPORT

metro

Vote Beckham, say leg-pullers

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

PRANKSTERS are trying to rig the poll for BBC Sports Personality of the Year by urging e-mail users to vote for David Beckham, the man widely blamed for England's exit from the World Cup after he was sent off in the match against Argentina.

Messages are being flashed to screens, particularly in businesses in the City of London, suggesting that users support the Manchester United midfielder, who was hung in effigy outside pubs and booed at Premiership grounds after England's defeat on June 30.

The sports personality programme, which usually attracts nearly nine million viewers, is to be screened on BBC1 on Sunday week. Viewers can vote for their favourite star by e-mail, by postcard or by telephoning during the award programme. Various versions of the e-mail messages have been circulating, urging people to "humiliate" the BBC by backing Beckham.

Dave Gordon, the executive

editor of *Sports Review of the Year*, said: "There is nothing we can do to stop it, but we are monitoring the situation. It is annoying, because it disrupts everything, but I am confident we can handle it and it will not railroad the traditional candidates."

He said that the BBC was examining the pattern of votes for Beckham and their original source. Some were even attached to the original e-mail encouraging people to back the England international. Mr Gordon declined to say how many votes for Beckham had been received.

E-mail voting was introduced two years ago. Mr Gordon said: "I do not regret the introduction of modern technology. It is how an increasing number of people communicate and voting by postcard was dropping slightly. This year it is also down a little, but e-mails are not dominating voting yet. There are enough votes to compensate for the odd aberration."

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Tycoon blocks footpath to keep out 'riff-raff'

Unrepentant estate owner insists: 'I won't let the great unwashed in my garden.' Helen Johnstone reports

A MILLIONAIRE property dealer has blocked off a footpath through his estate where he is building a vast mausoleum for his remains and a gallery for his priceless art collection.

Nicholas Van Hoogstraten, who refers to ramblers as the "great unwashed", is completing what is reputed to be the most expensive private home built in Britain this century. In recent years he has built a barn and erected metal barriers with barbed wire over a footpath which runs for half a mile through High Cross Estate in the heart of Sussex downland near Uckfield.

Ramblers, who previously found ways around the obstructions, have discovered Mr Van Hoogstraten has erected a barrier with a sign warning: "Private Property - Keep Out". Old refrigeration units block their path.

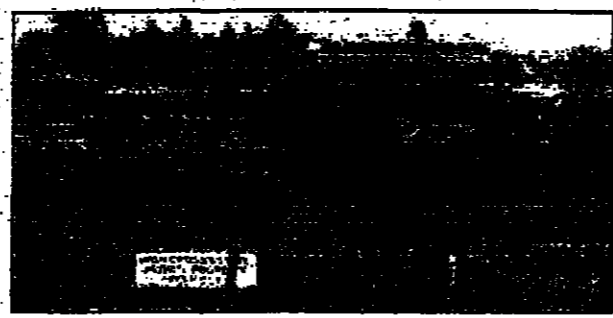
The Ramblers' Association claims East Sussex County Council, which is responsible for keeping highways and footpaths open, has been dragging its heels on the issue. Although the council agrees it is a public

footpath, it says budget constraints have prevented it from taking enforcement action.

A spokesman said: "We warned Mr Van Hoogstraten that the barn he had built was obstructing a public right of way, but he left us with no doubt that he intended to ignore us. Like many councils, East Sussex County Council's financial position means it hardly has enough money to meet essential services."

He said rights of way problems had to compete with more pressing needs, such as education and caring for the vulnerable and elderly. "Of course we are sympathetic to the ramblers' concerns. We are tackling obstructions to rights of way, but this particular footpath is not a top priority for a council whose funds are stretched to the limit."

Mr Van Hoogstraten, 53, who also has homes in Cannes, Monte Carlo, Maryland and Florida, was unrepentant yesterday. "The ramblers are just a bunch of the dirty mac brigade. The great unwashed - they're disgusting creatures. Let them waste



Hamilton Palace under construction near Uckfield

their time and money. I'm not going to open up the footpath. Would you have a lot of herberts in your garden?"

"They are getting tied up with all this government nonsense about the right to roam. But that's all about public land and it's not quite the same issue."

"The land is private property and there has never been an earthly reason for people to walk across it."

Mike Rumble, from the Sussex Area of the Ramblers' Association, said that talking to someone such as Mr Van Hoogstraten was a waste of time. Only enforcement action could work.

"The Countryside Commission has given an undertaking that every footpath in the country will be opened by the year 2000 and this should be part of it. If it's just one footpath that is not open, then they can-

not keep their pledge," he said.

Mr Van Hoogstraten expects work at Hamilton Palace to take several years and the final cost to reach £30 million. It will include a mausoleum and gallery for his art collection, which includes one of the few Holbeins still in private hands.

The mausoleum, which is being designed to last 5,000 years, resembles mausoleum temples built by the pharaohs. It has massive walls and foot-thick concrete floors. He has pledged to keep the public out before and after his death when it is to be sealed forever.

He said: "There won't be any riff-raff coming in, standing on the Persian carpets. The only purpose in creating wealth like mine is to separate oneself from the riff-raff."

Mr Van Hoogstraten, the son of a shipping agent, sold a stamp collection as a teenager

which gave him capital to start his property speculation empire. He bought his first property in the Bahamas and the business mushroomed.

He went on to buy property in the Notting Hill area of London and in Brighton and Hove in East Sussex. He won a reputation for being a ruthless landlord and once featured in a *World In Action* documentary that described cases of harassment involving his tenants.

By the age of 22, Mr Van Hoogstraten was being described as Britain's youngest millionaire, with 350 properties in Sussex alone. He is now understood to own many properties in London. His international portfolio includes mines and plantations. He has had five children by three wives.

An entire floor of Hamilton Palace, which is more than 600ft long, is to be made into a gallery for Mr Van Hoogstraten's extensive collection of French antique furniture, which includes a £1.5 million cabinet. His art collection is also believed to include two Turners.

In the 1960s he was jailed for four years for his part in a hand-grenade attack on the home of a synagogue official in Brighton. The judge described him as a "sort of self-imagined devil who thinks that he is an emissary of Beelzebub".



Nicholas Van Hoogstraten: as a boy, he sold his stamp collection to start in business

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Police dash saves man waiting for transplant

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who was told he had hours to live after contracting a rare liver disorder while on holiday in Turkey has been saved by a transplant.

The liver flown from Aberdeen to St James's Hospital in Leeds had to be diverted after Leeds-Bradford Airport became fogbound. Police from several forces delivered it by car in a high-speed dash.

John Wood, 55, from Nottingham, was told last week that he had a viral strain of hepatitis and a transplant was his only chance of surviving. A perfect match was found that day and the early prognosis after the operation is good.

Mr Wood, an accountant, said: "I would like to thank the donor and his family for having the foresight to save someone else's life. Without it I would not have seen today, never mind Christmas, with my family."

Bus crash victim was mother of hurt child

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN killed by a bus that ran into a queue of Christmas shoppers was the mother of a toddler seriously injured in the accident, police said last night.

Nicola Anderson, 26, died after being dragged for 50 yards under the single-decker in Sunderland's central bus station on Tuesday. Her daughter Charlotte, 2, who suffered a fractured skull, is still seriously ill in hospital. She had been thrown clear of the full impact.

The bus also killed Janine Harrison, an 18-year-old university student. Mrs Anderson's husband and her parents were at Charlotte's bedside in a specialist unit in Newcastle General Hospital.

The hospital said that she was in a "serious but stable condition". Six of the eight others injured have been discharged from Sunderland Royal Hospital.

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General alarm as Pinochet moves next door

Nice to see you? Well, not quite, say fellow residents on showbiz stars' estate, reports Joanna Bale

BRUCE FORSYTH was one thing, this was quite another. General Pinochet's new neighbours on a private estate are accustomed to the presence of the famous, but not to those who might attract protesters or assassins.

Nimbyism mixed with revulsion and excitement were the predominant emotions expressed yesterday on the Wentworth Estate in Virginia Water, Surrey. One man in his forties, who declined to be named, said: "I live here for the peace and the privacy. Now I can't even drive along my own road without being stopped by the police to check who I am. It's outrageous that we are having to put up with this, and for how long?"

A young mother at home with her two-year-old baby in a road overlooking the general in Lindale Close said: "I can just about see the house from my bedroom window. It's not a comfortable feeling having a murderer and torturer in your backyard. I'm afraid I'm a bit of nimby — he should have been put somewhere more iso-



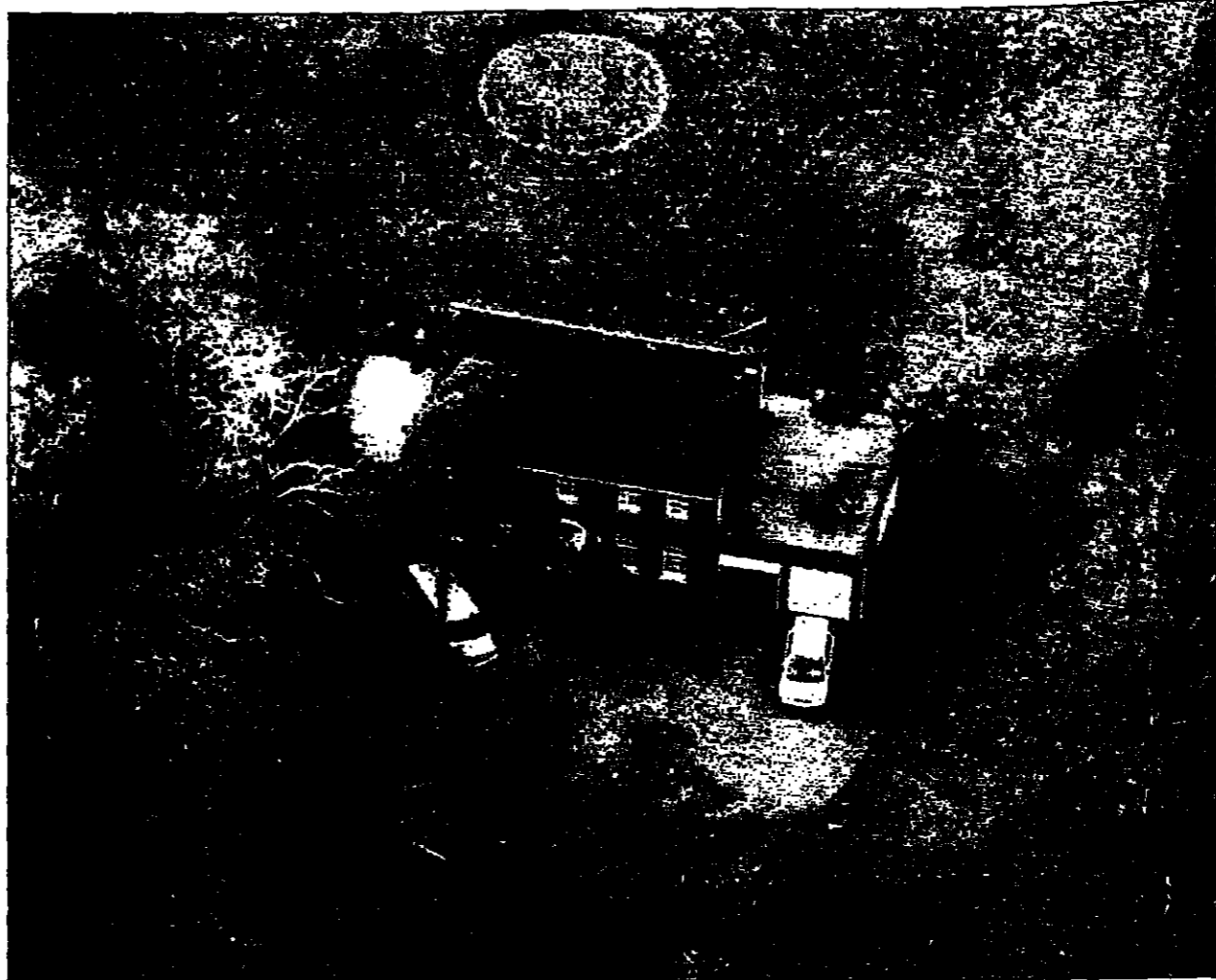
Pinochet: 300 supporters are flying to London

should have gone back to Chile to stand trial. He shouldn't really be here and I'm hoping he won't be much longer."

A woman out walking her highland terrier in nearby Lake Road said: "I'm not too concerned about him coming here so long as he stays out of our way. After all, he is only a former fascist dictator — what can he do?"

Pinochet, 83, moved to his nine-bedroom rented residence from the private clinic where he had been recovering from back surgery. He will remain under house arrest until his situation is resolved. The Home Secretary, Jack Straw, has until December 11 to decide whether to allow Spain's request to extradite the former Chilean dictator on charges of crimes against humanity, including genocide and torture. The process, if approved, could take months.

There were no signs of any protesters at the Estate yesterday, but many residents living near his £10,000-a-week mansion said they were expecting them to come. One Chile-



The rented mansion: a neighbour said that the general was "only a former fascist dictator — what can he do?"

an journalist watching members of the general's family come and go yesterday said: "They will be here. It is just a matter of time. It may be cold and difficult to find, but they are determined to make their feelings known."

Superintendent Carl Cathern said that his officers were prepared for "every eventual-

ty", but added: "I'm unable to discuss details regarding any of the security arrangements."

The estate not only has celebrity neighbours such as Bruce Forsyth, Russ Abbott and Nanette Newman, but the Wentworth Golf Club is not far away if the general fancies a spot of socialising where his celebrity may be welcome.

Simon Taylor, who was playing golf with his wife there yesterday, said: "If he wants to meet his new neighbours, this is the ideal place to come, and I'm sure lots of us would offer to play with him. Imagine all those anecdotes about life as a dictator and having tea with Baroness Thatcher. I would probably let him win though

— I wouldn't want to get on the wrong side of him."

In Santiago, 300 Pinochet supporters are planning to fly to London tomorrow, to join 200 already lobbying for his return. A committee of sympathisers has begun a campaign to shower Mr Straw with written pleas. Their stated goal is to send a million letters.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police face hearing on 'race' arrest

Four police officers face disciplinary hearings over allegations that they arrested a black solicitor who had come to see his client and then refused to let the solicitor see a lawyer.

Two of the officers are constables and the others are sergeants. The Police Complaints Authority said that a third sergeant would be reprimanded.

The hearings follow an investigation by Scotland Yard into the incident, which began when the solicitor, who was a trainee, went to Peckham police station in South London in June last year. The solicitor, in his early 30s, was arrested and put in the cells after he complained about the length of time he was being kept waiting and about the denial of access to his client.

The officers face charges of neglect of duty and abuse of authority. If they are found guilty and a racial link is established, they could be "named and shamed" under Yard plans to give greater publicity to officers linked to racial incidents.

Parking death

An elderly man who was guiding a friend into a parking space outside the town hall in Anerley, southeast London, was run over and killed when the driver, another pensioner, accidentally reversed into him.

Callous thief

A woman had her bag containing £34, snatched as she suffered an epileptic fit in the street with her six-year-old daughter looking on. The thief took the bag from her shoulder while she lay in the road in Chadderton, near Manchester.

Cars melt away

More than 20 cars worth a total of more than £300,000 have been stolen from driveways in the Midlands in the past fortnight when their owners left them unattended with the keys in the ignition to defice the windscreens.

Clothed in past

The Mitre House, where new Bishops of Salisbury have traditionally been robed before their enthronement, is being sold by the cathedral on condition that the new owner allows the 700-year-old ceremony to continue there.

Christmas post

The recommended last posting dates for Christmas mail will be: second class, December 18; first class, December 22. Last date for airmail to Europe, December 12; airmail to the rest of world, December 5.

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Suicide attempts rise to a record

By HELEN RUMBLOW

A RISE in young men attempting suicide has pushed Britain to a record level of self-destructiveness, with one in every 250 people in England a year admitted to casualty for self-harm, a report says today.

Deliberate overdoses or other self-injuries are now in the top five of all emergency admissions, higher than in most other European countries, says Allan House, a senior lecturer in psychiatry at the University of Leeds, in *Effective Health Care*. Paracetamol overdose is the most common. Suicide-attempt rates have mirrored recent recessions. The most likely to die by suicide are now male, unemployed, in poor physical health and living alone. "The rates have gone up spectacularly for men under 30," Dr House said. "In Holland, they never see the very large numbers of young people we do."

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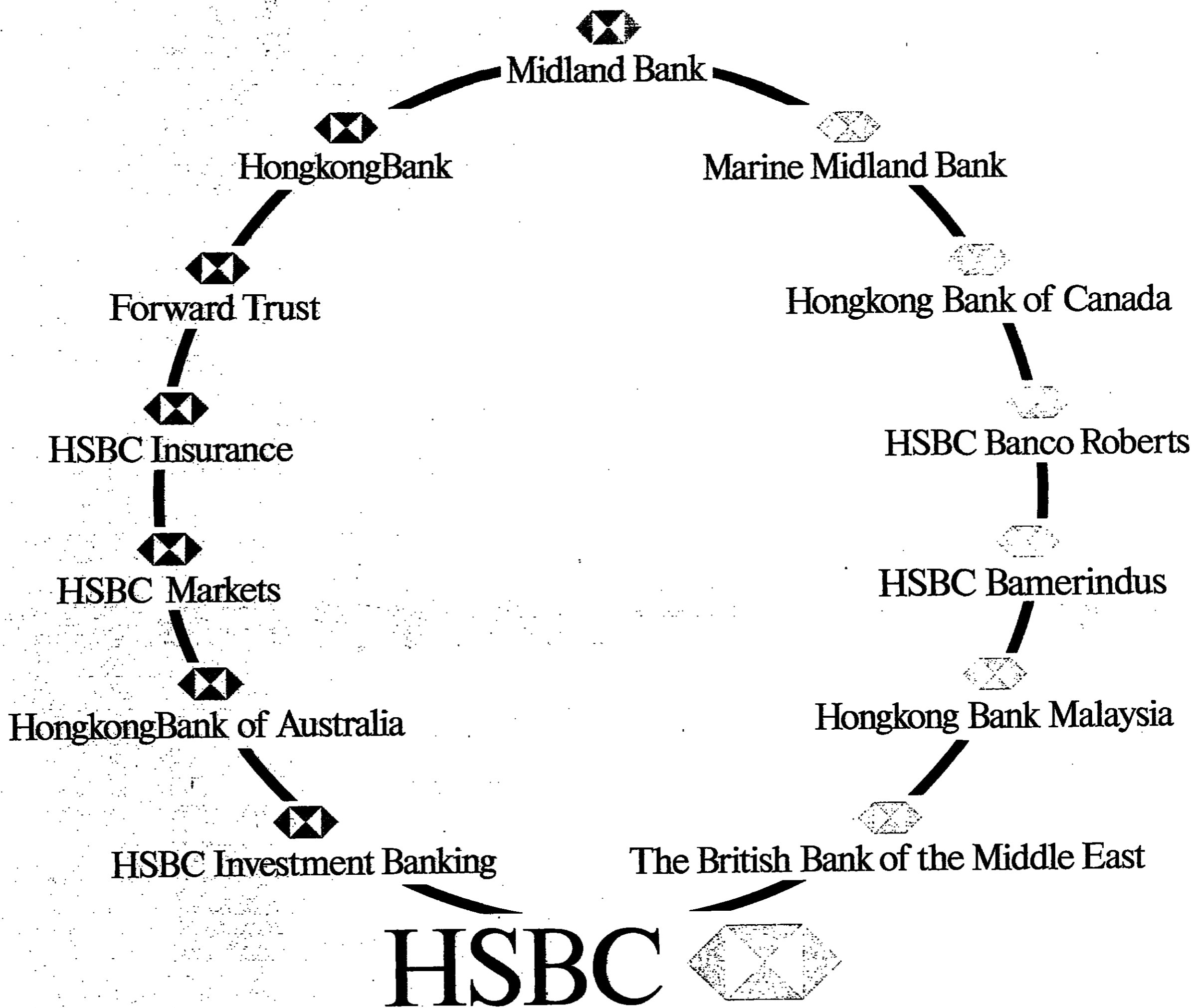
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Irvine seeks openness and value for money

THE legal system will have its biggest shake-up for 50 years under sweeping reforms to legal aid, lawyers' monopolies and the courts that were unveiled yesterday.

The measures, outlined by the Lord Chancellor in a White Paper called *Modernising Justice*, include dismantling the "outdated" £1.6 billion legal aid scheme. It will be replaced by a quality-controlled system with specialist lawyers working under contract.

It will also be harder to obtain legal aid. But there will be expansion in "no win, no fee" work to help the millions who do not qualify for legal aid but cannot afford lawyers' fees.

"The justice system is top heavy - it is dominated by lawyers, courts and outdated legal practices and jargon," the White Paper says. "But our legal system should be for everyone." The justice system is also criticised for being slow and expensive.

The reforms have two aims: to give many more people access to justice and to obtain the best value for taxpayers' money spent on legal services and the courts. The Government also wants a marked shift from the use of lawyers and the courts towards mediation and advice workers who may not be legally qualified. The paper says: "The Government will refocus legal aid spending on social welfare cases and expand the role of voluntary advice agencies, so helping to correct this imbalance."

Legal aid was set up as part

New system will set tougher tests for legal aid but promises justice for all. Reports by Frances Gibb

of the welfare state in 1949. Two replacements are proposed: a Community Legal Service for civil disputes and a Criminal Defence Service for criminal cases.

Legal help paid for from public funds will be provided only through lawyers and advice centres that are awarded contracts. Lawyers will no longer be paid according to the amount of work done. Instead they will have to work to strictly controlled budgets and meet quality standards.

The combination of con-

tract and the White Paper's proposed removal of the legal profession's last restrictive practices will "increase competition among lawyers and help to keep costs down".

There will be new tests to identify cases suitable for legal aid: is the case more suited to mediation, and could it be funded in another way, say "no win, no fee"?

To further weed out weak claims, a case will win public funds only if it is judged that a reasonable person would spend their own money on the

action. That would not, however, apply if there were wider public interest reasons in the case being brought. The White Paper says that some cases are so important, such as whether a child should be taken into care, that legal representation would be given immediately. But in general: "It cannot be assumed that any case necessarily has an automatic right to public funding because of its intrinsic merits. This is not possible where resources are finite."

The Legal Aid Board will be replaced by a Legal Services Commission which will monitor the allocation of contracts on the basis of local needs.

The new Civil Defence Service will have a mix of state-salaried lawyers and law firms contracted to undertake defence work. In Scotland the Government is already piloting a public defender scheme with salaried defence lawyers but the idea has been fiercely criticised by the Law Society for Scotland and Faculty of Advocates. The public will no longer have unfettered choice of lawyers. "This is necessary and desirable to secure quality and value for money," the paper says.

In an attempt to curb high legal aid costs, trials lasting 25 days or more will not be covered by contracts but defendants will still have to choose a legal firm from a specialist panel. For those who do not qualify for public funds, the White Paper proposes changes to the legal insurance market to en-



On the way out: the legal aid system, set up in 1949, is to be reconstructed with far fewer lawyers providing the service

courage "no win, no fee" work. Legal insurance is vital to the "no win, no fee" system: people have to take out insurance against paying the costs of the other side if they lose. The proposals will make it possible for the winner to recover the lawyer's success fee - the extra fee charged for a win - from the loser's insurer.

A second prong of the White Paper is the removal of the legal profession's last restrictive practices. It says that many

lawyers are decent and hard-working people of integrity and commitment who do not become rich. But the paper adds: "In many instances, the assumptions and working practices of the legal profession, taken as a whole, are outdated and inefficient. The taxpayer often meets the cost of that inefficiency."

The Bar's near monopoly of work in the Crown Courts is finally to go. The Government proposes that all lawyers - so-

licitiers and barristers - should have the right to appear in any court and it will be up to the profession to set qualifications and standards.

The Bar and the Institute of Legal Executives will be able to prepare cases for litigation - work now done by solicitors.

The Lord Chancellor will retain a last-stopper to impose rule changes on the profession so that reforms cannot be "frustrated". He has removed the senior judges' veto

over rule changes but will have to obtain Parliament's approval for them.

Other changes in the White Paper include reform of the appeals system so that many smaller cases do not need to go before a full Court of Appeal. *Modernising Justice: The Government's plans for reforming legal services and the courts* (Stationery Office, Command 4155, £9.25)

Leading article, page 23

MODERNISING JUSTICE

- Scrapping of £1.6bn legal aid scheme and replacement with system of solicitor contracts
- New Community Legal Service and Criminal Defence Service, including some excluded professions
- New opening test for legal aid, including whether a paying party would spend the money
- All litigants, including Crown Prosecutors, to have rights of audience in all courts
- Greater judge to law power of state rule changes affecting the legal profession
- Local Councils to take lead role in enforcing rules subject to Parliament
- No win, no fee work to be expanded - lawyers' success fee to be paid for by insurer
- Quota of appeal allowed with money smaller appeals to go before the judge only
- Reforms to civil trials will speed up trial costs

Turning justice into 'a sausage machine'

LAWYERS voiced immediate opposition to the reform plan, saying that it would destroy choice and bring a "sausage machine mentality" to the law. Heather Hallett, QC, the Bar chairman, said: "What the legal aid system needs is cost control, not state control."

Some judges will fight plans to give the Lord Chancellor power to enforce rule changes on the legal profession, subject to Parliament's approval. Lawyers' main opposition is over replacing legal aid with block contracts and a Criminal Defence Service. Ms Hallett said that plans for block contracts risked a "sausage machine mentality" to processing justice. The best way to control the legal-aid budget, on which she welcomed reform, was through fixed-fee schemes.

She added that a Criminal Defence Service, which would employ some state-salaried criminal lawyers, could also backfire as in parts of America without proper funding. "Lawyers may not be so fearless if they have the state on their shoulder and a financial disincentive against properly preparing their case."

The plans to dismantle the last restrictive practices is the climax of a ten-year battle between the profession's two

Barristers say they will fight expansion of state control

branches. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the previous Lord Chancellor, started the reform process but opposition from senior judges led to a complex compromise that effectively blocked any change.

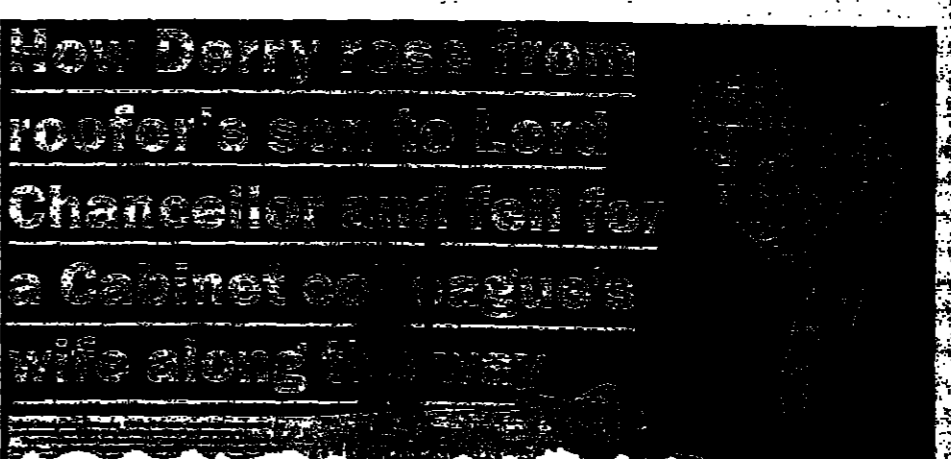
The Bar has now moved on from that debate and muted its full-blown opposition to allowing Crown prosecutors into the higher courts, giving warning only that there must be "adequate safeguards in the public interest" to stop cases

THE LAW ONLINE

being presented by "second-rate lawyers". The Law Society urged the Government to tread carefully on legal aid. The proposals could reduce the number of solicitors' offices offering legal aid from 10,000 to 3,000, destroying choice and local access. "Some communities may lose the network of legal-aid solicitors entirely," it said.

But it welcomed the ending of the Bar's near-monopoly on advocacy in higher courts, saying that would provide the "spur for greater client choice and competition in legal services". It also praised the Government for its "radical approach to reforming the legal establishment". The moves would create a level playing field between all lawyers appearing in the courts and end the "unjustified distinction between barristers and solicitors".

Michael Mathews, president of the Law Society, said that the previous Government's attempts to dismantle the court monopoly had proved a false dawn, leading to only a few solicitor-advocates. "This reform will lead to many more highly competent solicitor-advocates, able to challenge the Bar's historic dominance in this vital area. This means a real increase in choice for the public," he said.



Lord Irvine's charm offensive in *The Sun*. "Alison and I fell in love," he told the paper

Irvine admits affair guilt

By Frances Gibb and Gillian Harris

IN THE latest initiative to show that the Lord Chancellor has a human face, Lord Irvine of Lairg has disclosed his guilt over the break-up of his marriage when he fell for the wife of Donald Dewar, now the Scottish Secretary.

In *The Sun*, the Lord Chancellor praised his first wife, Margaret - a "wonderful woman without fault" whom he left 27 years ago. "I felt extremely guilty at the time but the fact is that Alison and I fell in love."

In the same interview - which will be followed by a signed article by the Lord Chancellor on his justice reforms in the same newspaper today - Lord Irvine also spoke of his deprived child-

hood and his pain over his mother's illness.

His mother, who looked after the only son, Derry, when his father was away for five years during the war, was too ill to share his triumph when he became Lord Chancellor. "It was very depressing and painful."

She had sat in front of the television screen when I delivered the Queen's Speech to her Majesty but she didn't recognise me and that was a deep tragedy."

His family were short of money and when he won a scholarship to Hutchesons' Boys' Grammar School in Glasgow, which was "mainly middle class", his uniform was usually second-hand, he recalled.

At Glasgow University he felt embarrassed by his lack of

means. A friend who attended Glasgow University said yesterday that the break-up of the marriage caused the man who was to become Lord Chancellor enormous pain.

"He was head-over-heels in love with Alison and there was never any suggestion that they would not be together but Derry worried terribly about Margaret and how she would cope," she said.

"I think he felt bad about what Donald and Alison went through as well, although I suspect he was ashamed of what he was doing to Donald after all, he embarked on the affair when they were both still married and was well aware of the possible consequences."

Mr Dewar, who has never remarried, was unavailable for comment.

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THE TIMES

Pr

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BY ALAN HARRIS

THE Prince of Wales visited the state visit to Britain on by the Prince to the Edinburgh Museum of the history of national identity opened by the Queen yesterday. During the

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Prince braves Scotland's modern view of past

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales was forced to grit his teeth yesterday and accompany a distinguished visitor around a building of which he is not at all fond.

President Herzog of Germany, on the second day of his state visit to Britain, was taken by the Prince to the £52 million Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, the official repository of national history opened by the Queen on Monday. During the museum's planning stage the Prince resigned as a patron after a disagreement over the open competition to find a design.

The contract eventually went to the Anglo-Scottish Architectural Partnership of Benson and Forsyth, which produced an angular structure clad in yellow Morayshire sandstone. Critics say it sits ill with Edinburgh's rich store of medieval, Georgian and Victorian buildings.

As he strolled around the museum with Herr Herzog



The Prince kept a tactful silence on the design of the museum during yesterday's visit

the Prince was asked what he thought of it. "I never comment on architecture" on Wednesday he said, smiling wryly in a coded signal of disapproval.

The museum's five galleries tell the story of Scotland from its geological origins 300 million years ago, through early Celtic and Viking settlers to the present day. Herr Herzog saw the Monymusk Reliquary, a tiny 9th-century jewelled casket that once contained a holy relic and was carried before the Scottish army at Bannockburn.



Although the Prince and the

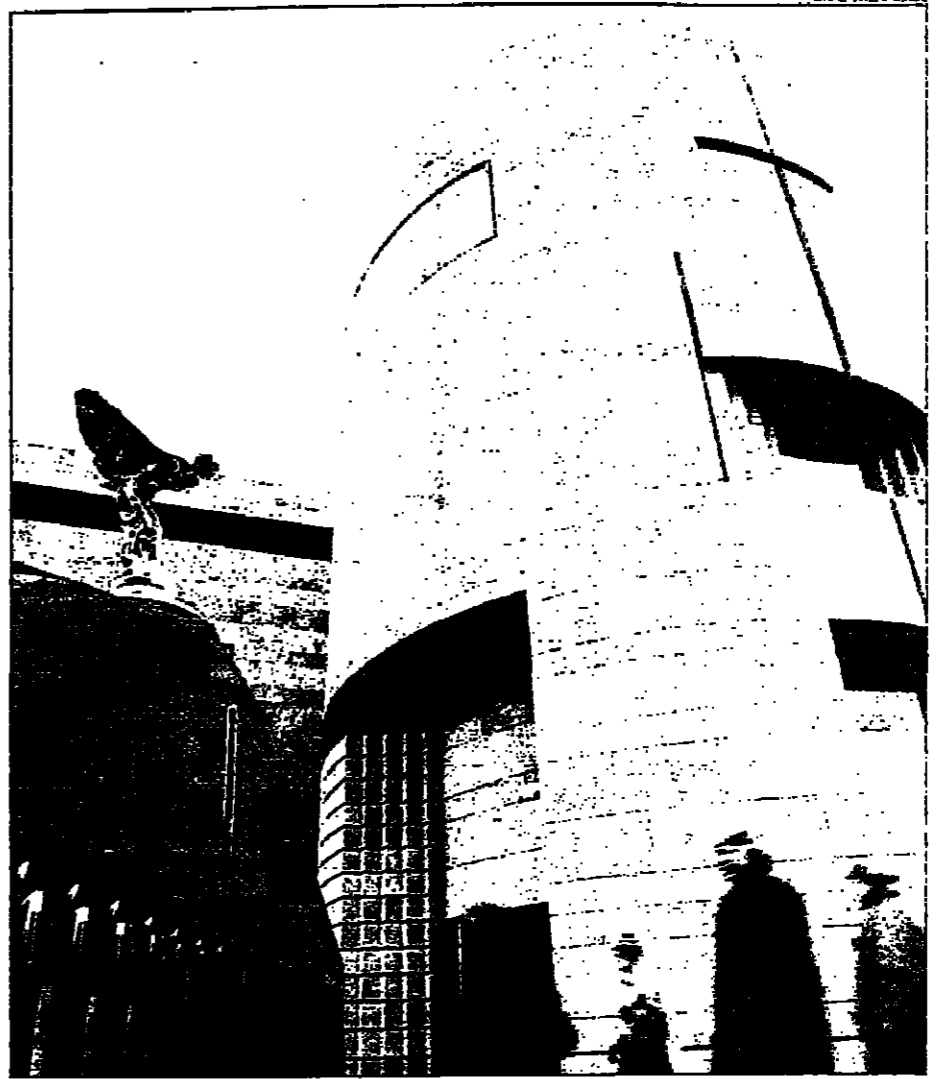
President did not visit it, the museum is assembling a temporary exhibition in which people have been invited to nominate an object that typifies modern Scotland. Sean Connery asked for a copy of the Declaration of Arbroath, the stirring statement of independence from 1320. Told that it was not contemporary, he asked for it to be rolled up inside a milk bottle, a reference to his origins as a delivery boy for the Edinburgh Co-op.

Kirsty Wark, the television presenter, for reasons unclear to the curators, has asked for a Saab car, and a member of the public has nominated a bottle of Irn-Bru, Scotland's other national drink, sworn by as a sovereign remedy for hangovers.

The curators stoutly deny that their display is either gimmicky or overtly nationalist. A spokesman said: "Like all museums, it is based around objects, from Roman treasure to James Watt's steam engine. It is not just about kings and queens, it is about the huge contribution of a small nation to the world, and about the ordinary lives of its people."

President Herzog later laid a wreath at the Scottish National War Memorial at Edinburgh Castle, the first German head of state to do so. His tribute of red and yellow roses was placed by two officers of the German Army.

The President later flew back to London to visit an exhibition at the Imperial War Museum to mark the 50th anniversary of the Berlin airlift.



High roller: the Prince's Rolls-Royce parked outside the annexe of the museum

West End drug fort 'operating for a year'

By ADRIAN LEE

A FORTIFIED drug den in the heart of London's West End, which was uncovered by police on Tuesday, had been operating for a year, officers said yesterday.

Drugs worth £100,000 were recovered, 44 people arrested and £70,000 seized in a raid involving 500 officers.

In the maze of rooms in the four-storey, unlicensed Back Beat Club, police encountered reinforced steel doors, and windows sealed by concrete blocks. They were forced to use abseiling ropes and had to break in through the roof.

The club had been kept under surveillance for five months before police went in during the rush-hour, sealing off much of the West End. Scores of police in body armour surrounded the building while sledgehammers were used to smash through a fortified window at roof level.

Stun grenades were fired as suspects were seized. Several weapons were recovered.

Police found 60,000 plastic drug-dealing bags on the premises, which, it is estimated, were making £300,000 a week for those who ran it. Two addresses in South London were also raided.

Satellites aim to put binmen in their place

By RICHARD DUCE

SATELLITES used to pinpoint strategic weapons of unfriendly powers have been turned on the humble Devon dustman. Teignmouth binmen are to come under the scrutiny of the Global Positioning System (GPS), thought to be the first use of such technology by a British local authority.

GPS is so sophisticated that it can determine when any of Teignmouth council's 12 dustcarts stops for too long outside a café. But the waste management firm Onyx, which has invested £60,000 in the scheme, is adamant that it is simply to improve services.

Gordon Plahn, a town councillor, said: "George Orwell would have a field day with this one. It sounds as if the days of 1984 and Big Brother have arrived at last." Nigel Toote, chairman of the local branch of Unison, said: "Employers are entitled to use technology so long as it does not infringe the terms and conditions of the existing staff."

Bill Prescott, Onyx technical director, said: "We can see if the driver is in a café and we can look at each vehicle and locate every address where a bin has been picked up."



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Ambassador is censured in row over resignation

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE high-handed behaviour of a British ambassador who led to a man losing his job is to be investigated by MPs.

The Foreign Office is to pay out £5,000 compensation to the man but the diplomat — whom the FO refuses to name — has not been punished and the department refuses to accept that he lost his job because of the ambassador.

MPs today will learn the full details of the diplomat's "quite extraordinary and wholly deplorable" action in a report from the Parliamentary Ombudsman, Michael Buckley.

But last night Rhodri Morgan, chairman of the Commons public administration committee, said he intended to raise the matter in an inquiry into public accountability.

He said it would be "a sensible move" if the FO published the name. "They will not be able to hide if the committee in-

vestigates this." The incident involved the diplomat sneaking on an employee to his company boss and trying to hush up a subsequent complaint. Mr Buckley is also critical of the Foreign Office for attempting a cover-up for the ambassador whose action was described even by its own legal adviser as "impetuous, ill-judged and unwise".

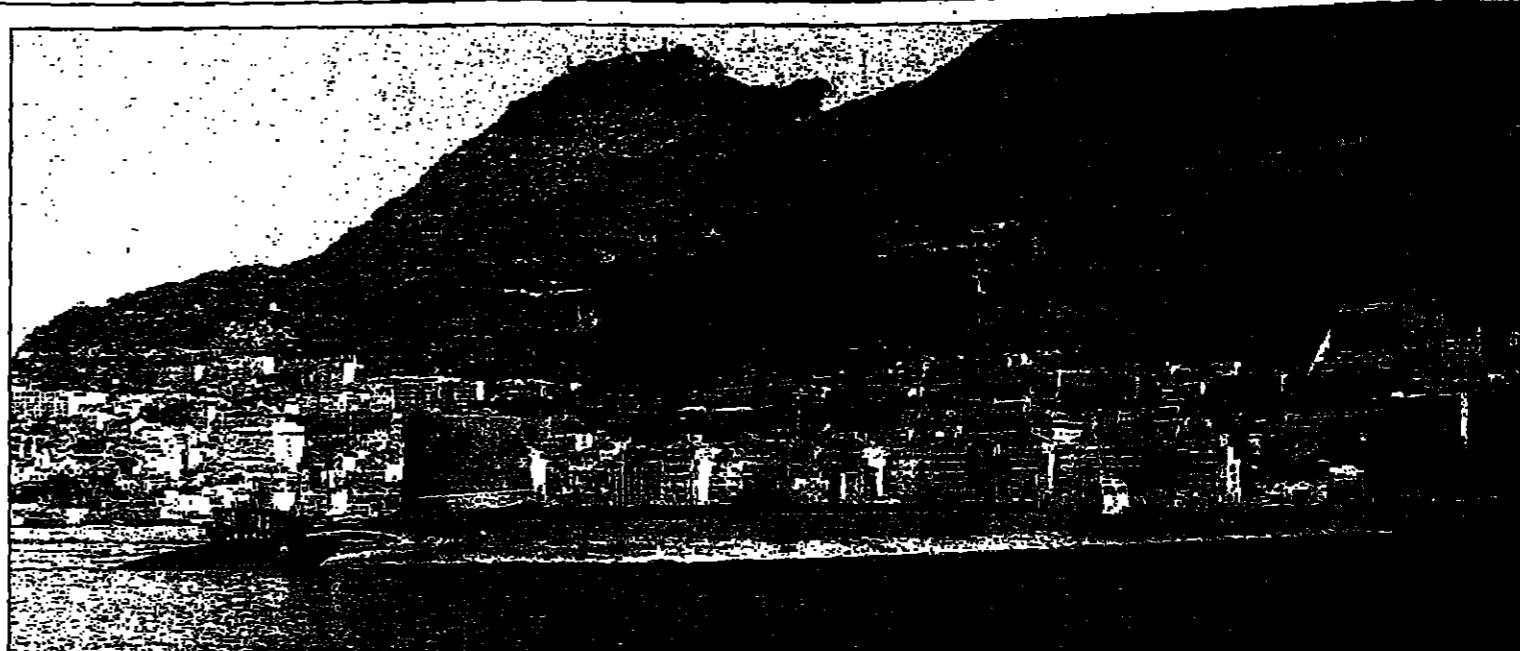
The incident is believed to have taken place in a small, far-flung country where the embassy was in close touch with the man's employer, a company involved in a British government contract with the host government.

The ambassador and the company chief executive also met regularly and knew each other well. It was at one of their routine meetings that the ambassador raised the subject of Mr X, who had complained to him about a £10 fee charged

by the British consulate for a letter of introduction required for a tourist visa. He thought the official he had encountered was "officious, unhelpful and rude" and had suggested the consulate should perhaps employ British housewives. The ambassador passed on the correspondence to the company chief executive, writing: "I find his tone pretty aggravating, particularly since the British Embassy, under successive ambassadors, has played a major role in maintaining and establishing the company's position in this country."

Mr X told the ombudsman he was forced to resign. The three Tory Foreign Office ministers when a complaint was made in 1996 were Alastair Goodlad, David Davis and Douglas Hogg. It was unclear who dealt with the case.

Leading article, page 23



HMS Vanguard making history by becoming the first British nuclear deterrent boat to make a port visit when she arrived in Gibraltar

Navy's Trident submarine hits the Rock

A ROYAL Navy Trident ballistic missile submarine has created history by being the first British nuclear deterrent boat to make a port visit (Michael Evans writes).

HMS Vanguard, on her way back from a mission in the Mediterranean, arrived in Gibraltar, where local dignitaries were invited on board. None of the four Polaris boats during

229 patrols and 28 years of service visited a port other than their home base at Faslane on the Clyde and at a US Navy base during missile trials.

When Polaris was withdrawn from service in May 1996, the Trident submarines maintained the same secret patrol schedule. However, in July, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, announced the Trident

boats would adopt a reduced "day-to-day alert state".

HMS Vanguard became the first to enjoy what is a long tradition for the crews of all other Navy vessels — "a run ashore". The 492ft boat which, on its end, would be three times the height of Nelson's Column, left Gibraltar yesterday after four days in port and headed back to Faslane.

Commander Paul Abraham, the submarine's commanding officer, said: "The positive effect on the crew has been immeasurable and the reception from the Gibraltarians was wonderful."

The submarine was not on a deterrent patrol — that role is being carried out by another Trident boat and was not armed with ballistic missiles.

THE Bar as Melvyn new career until rece Week at his hand show, th gramme f "Their I It's on e ratings ar quality di were there day, on a 9.00 he col Novelist, b

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Redwood criticises millennium bug 'delay'

THE Tories last night accused the Government of being more interested in "media management" than tackling the millennium bug.

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, claimed ministers were being complacent about computerised systems which may fail if they are not programmed to deal with the date change. Insisting the Tory administration had left the situation "in good order", he challenged Margaret Beckett, the Leader of the Commons, to give the public "a millennium guarantee that everything will work properly on January 1, 2000".

Mrs Beckett dismissed Mr Redwood's assertions and accused him of basing his allegations on old reports from Taskforce 2000, a group set up by the previous Tory Government to ensure the private sector put forward action plans.

Mrs Beckett said there had been "steady and determined progress". "Three quarters of departments, and agencies have now completed 50 per cent or more of the necessary correction work on business-critical IT systems, up from a figure of a half of departments and agencies in the last quarter," she said. "Two-fifths have completed 90 per cent or more of the work."

Mandelson set to lose fight over 48-hr week

BY ROLAND WATSON
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

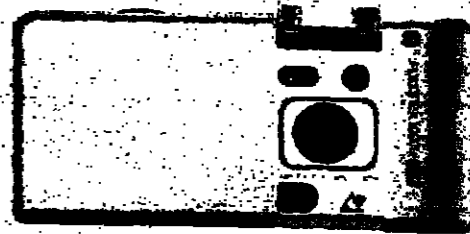
EUROPE is set to inflict a costly rebuff to the Government next month over proposals to extend the 48-hour working week to junior doctors and transport workers.

Germany and France are heading a drive to force the UK into accepting the new rules, which could cost the NHS more than £1 billion in extra costs. The defeat would be a blow for Peter Mandelson, the Trade Secretary, who has opposed the changes.

"They would require the health service to recruit an extra 6,000 junior doctors to maintain levels of patient care," the British Medical Association says. Road hauliers, who would also be covered by the rules, have said it could threaten 15,000 jobs and mean price rises of up to a third for time-sensitive goods such as newspapers.

Under the proposals, junior doctors would initially be limited to a 54-hour working week, phased down to 48 hours over seven years. With the issue decided by majority voting, Mr Mandelson has no veto and is threatened with being outvoted. The DTI last night said it remained opposed to the plans.

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TV watchdogs fight BBC over regional news

By Shirley English

TELEVISION watchdogs in Scotland and Wales yesterday joined forces to fight plans by London-based BBC chiefs to block devolved news programmes.

Attempts to retain central control of the Six O'clock News could plunge the BBC into civil war, the Broadcasting Councils for Scotland and Wales warned. At an unprecedented joint meeting in Cardiff yesterday, the two councils stated their "common concerns" ahead of the BBC Board of Governors' final decision on the revamped news broadcast, which will be announced on Thursday next week.

Scotland and Wales want to replace the current format of 30 minutes of national news from London, followed by 30 minutes from the regions, with a home-produced, hour-long programme of UK and international news controlled by Glasgow and Cardiff. The

Board of Governors, chaired by Sir Christopher Bland, last month suggested it was about to veto such a development, which it said would "run ahead of the general pace of constitutional change."

In a joint statement yesterday, the two councils said that they were unconvinced by the Governors' latest proposals, which would see a revamped 6pm "News Hour" controlled and edited in London, punctuated with extended pockets of regional coverage.

The statement said the council members were unconvinced that the plan "can offer enough to the audiences in each country, given the enormous impact that the Parliament and National Assembly will have for the people of Scotland and Wales."

Newsnight faces complaint of bias

By Raymond Snoddy, Media Correspondent

THE Radio Authority, the regulatory body for commercial radio, yesterday accused Newsnight of making a "biased, unbalanced and inaccurate" programme about its affairs.

The complaint involves an item on the BBC2 current affairs programme on Tuesday night about the authority's award of the East of England regional licence in June 1997.

A former secretary of the Radio Authority, John Norington, has claimed that, at one meeting of the authority,

the licence was awarded to a group called Esprit, backed by Eastern Counties Newspapers. However, at a further meeting he says the licence was instead given to Vibe FM, backed by Eastern Counties Radio, a company now controlled by the Daily Mail & General Trust.

The authority said yesterday it had "acted wholly properly". Sir Peter Gibbins, chairman of the authority, accused Newsnight of trying to discredit it.

their daily lives such as health, education and agriculture."

The debate has exposed deep divisions in every strata of the BBC, right up the Board of Governors, who were understood to have been deeply divided when they discussed the issue last month.

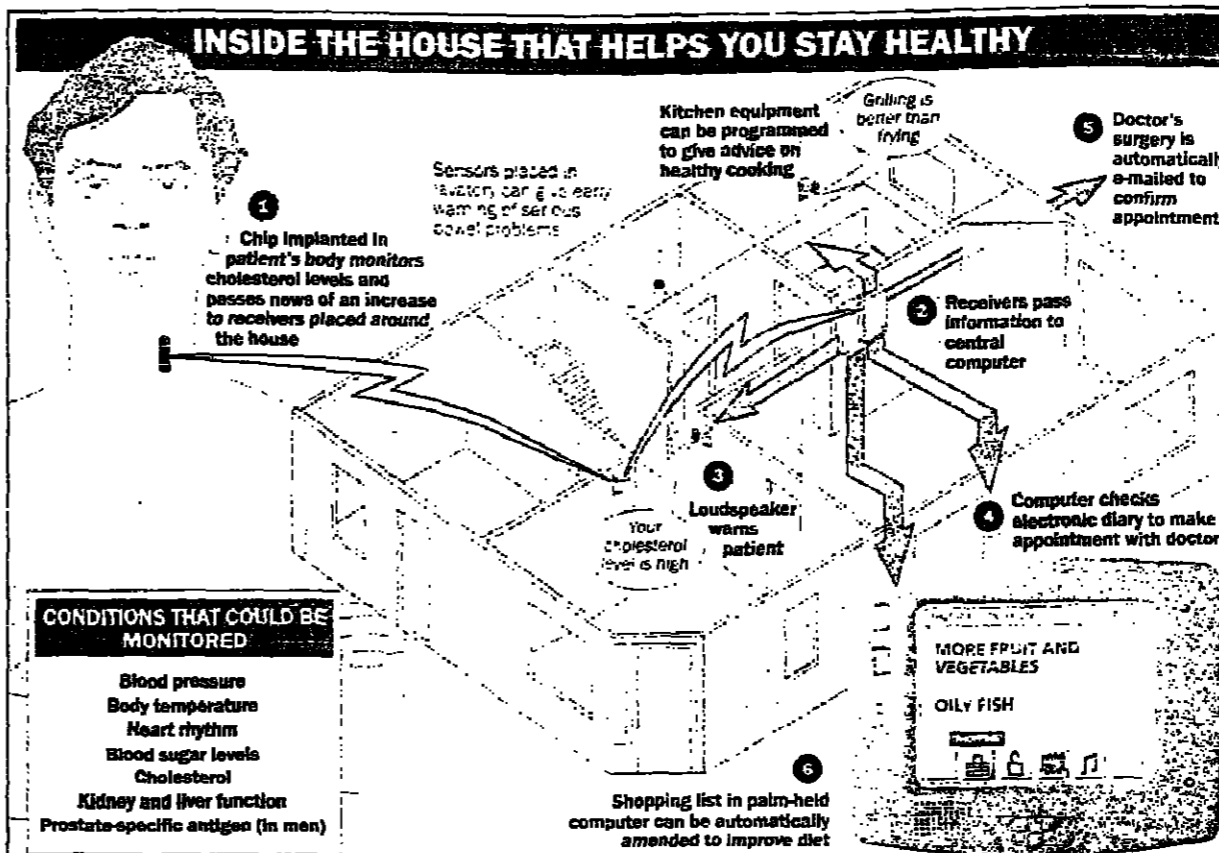
Allegations have also emerged of high-level political interference, with Government ministers reported to have voiced their opposition to devolved programming, fearing it might pander to nationalist sentiments.

A BBC source said it was common knowledge that a number of senior political figures had "talked their friends" at the BBC in London to advise them of their opposition.

The source said: "This would never have been allowed to happen under the Tories. But the BBC hierarchy is far too close to senior political figures in the Labour party."

Lindsay Paerson, a member of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland, which represents two million licence-payers, has already resigned over the issue. He labelled the consultations between Governors and council members a "charade and complete waste of time."

Ken Cargill, Scotland's Head of News, said: "It is important that we ensure that no one crosses the line into campaigning for a Scottish Six in order that we can sustain our impartiality."



The future is looking healthy

By Ian Murray, Medical Correspondent

A THINKING house that monitors the health of its occupants, an artificial womb to let a baby develop outside its mother and a Star Trek-style hand-held sensor instantly to diagnose any disease could be reality early next century according to three leading medical academics.

Their vision is described in a book published today which points the way in which research into illness and the human body is heading. It predicts a future in which healthy life expectancy can be extended to 120 by constant monitoring which picks up early warning of any sign of illness, enabling it to be treated before it becomes serious.

The most effective monitor would be an intelligent house, fitted with sensors that recognise each individual and know what symptoms to look for. This could become a reality in the not too distant future according to David Delpy,

Professor of Medical Physics at University College London, one of the authors.

The book looks ahead to womb transplants, instant diagnostic devices like those used by Dr McCoy in Star Trek, brain implants and anti-obesity drugs. It also worries that passive entertainment is creating a society of unhealthy couch potatoes, early osteoporosis, designer babies and aggressive state nannyism.

The authors accept that unless properly regulated the in-

telligent house could become the nanny state's spy. The technology for it already exists or is in development. The secret is an implant under the skin which keeps a constant check on the way the body is working.

Initially different implants would be required to monitor each function. Individuals would probably be fitted with only those needed to give information about conditions to which they were prone.

Someone with a heart condition would have an implant

that kept a constant check on blood pressure and another to test cholesterol levels. The information from the implant would be transmitted to a smart box in the house which would be able to recognise if the cholesterol level was too high.

The smart box could take action in at least three ways. It could give a voice warning to the individual through a loudspeaker in the house, it could adjust diet through its control of the food ordering and cooking process and it could check electronic diaries and book an appointment for the patient to see a specialist.

The intelligent house lavatory would also be able to test for illnesses such as diabetes and ensure that the body was functioning regularly and normally.

"People will find themselves talking naturally to their house," Professor Delpy said. Clinical Futures: BMJ Books, Tavistock House, London, WC1H 9JR.

DRUGS WILL TELL BODY TO DIET

- The book predicts:
- artificial cell transplants will replace heart transplants;
 - computer-controlled artificial hearts;
 - artificial wombs within ten years;
 - increased knowledge of nerve repair will make it possible for the blind to see and the deaf to hear;
 - anti-obesity drugs could teach the centres of the brain that control body weight how to lose it;
 - genetic predisposition for mental illness will be identified;
 - robot surgeons for keyhole procedures.

Research challenge to school streaming

By Victoria Fletcher

PUPILS who are placed in streams and sets at school achieve no better results than if they had been kept in mixed-ability classes, according to a report published tomorrow.

Children in the bottom streams are more likely to lose confidence, stop taking part in school activities, misbehave and play truant than if they had been left in mixed classes, the research suggests. The report, by the National Foundation for Educational Research, will add to the growing controversy over the value of streaming and setting in schools. Before Ofsted, the school standards watchdog, publishes research in the next few weeks.

David Blunkin, the Education Secretary, is strongly in favour of streaming and wants all comprehensive to adapt the policy. There is a growing trend in primary and secondary schools towards putting pupils in sets for such subjects as maths, English and science.

The report, *Streaming, Setting and Grouping by Ability*, by Laura Sulmasy and Barbara Lee, reviewed more than 20 major studies in Britain and the United States on streaming and setting, carried out before the 1980s and after 1980. Although the researchers admit they do not have definitive evidence, they conclude: "In general, the findings from the research literature suggest that there are no significant differences between streaming, setting and mixed ability teaching on pupil achievement."

Streaming assigns children to classes based on their overall ability, while setting places pupils in classes only for certain subjects. Schools which have persistently refused to stream or set pupils welcomed the findings. Trinity Catholic High School in Redbridge has 71 per cent of pupils achieving 5 grade A*-C at GCSE. The 1,700-pupil comprehensive sets only for maths.

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	£2,500 up to £200,000	7.50%	7.00%	7.00%	N/A	
OLYMPUS	£1,000 up to £5,000	2.00%	1.75%	1.75%	1.49%	
	£5,000 up to £10,000	2.00%	1.80%	1.80%	1.50%	
	£10,000 up to £20,000	6.25%	5.85%	5.85%	5.20%	
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REGENT/REGAL	£500 up to £2,500	2.65%	2.15%	2.15%	1.72%	
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	£5,000 up to £10,000	4.25%	3.75%	3.75%	3.00%	
	£10,000 up to £20,000	5.00%	4.50%	4.50%	3.88%	
BOUNTY SHARES	£500 up to £2,500	3.45%	2.95%	2.95%	2.34%	
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£10,000 up to £750,000		2.35%	1.85%	1.85%	1.31%	
REGULAR	£500 up to £150,000	1.55%	1.65%	1.65%	0.84%	
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TESSA ELITE	£20,000 up to £40,000	5.40%	4.90%	4.90%	3.87%	
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	£80,000 up to £160,000	6.15%	5.65%	5.65%	4.45%	
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	£1,000 and over	6.75%	6.25%	6.25%	5.09%	
	£1,000 and over	7.25%	6.75%	6.75%	5.80%	
BOUNTY DEPOSITS	£500 up to £2,500	3.65%	2.95%	2.95%	2.25%	
	£2,500 up to £5,000	3.85%	3.35%	3.35%	2.65%	
	£5,000 up to £10,000	4.70%	4.20%	4.20%	3.25%	
	£10,000 up to £20,000	5.35%	4.85%	4.85%	3.85%	
BOUNTY DEPOSITS	£20,000 up to £50,000	6.15%	5.65%	5.65%	4.35%	
	£50,000 up to £200,000	6.70%	6.20%	6.20%	4.95%	

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THE Bar as Melvyn new caree until rece Week at his hand was, for show: th gramme f it "Their l It's on e ratings ar quality di were there day: on a 9.00 he con Novelist, b



Jacob Gidding is taken from the scene of the restaurant bombing on August 25

Cape woos back British victims of bomb attack

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

BARELY three months after a terrorist bomb in a crowded restaurant brought a holiday in the sun to a bloody end, the Giddings family from Hampshire returned to Cape Town yesterday to spend a week as the city's guests. Their trip is being paid for and organised by South African Airways, the city's tourist board and the Planet Hollywood restaurant, which was bombed on August 25. That day, Tony and Mandy Giddings, their children, Laura, eight, and Jacob, three, from Bramshaw, and Mr Giddings's parents, Brian

and Iris Giddings, stepped into the restaurant at the waterfront, Cape Town's main tourist attraction after Table Mountain. Only minutes after they sat down, a pipe bomb, a crude but effective home-made device packed with explosives and jagged pieces of metal, exploded behind the bar. A group of bankers holding a farewell party for a colleague took the full force of the blast. One man was killed instantly and a second, whose legs were blown off, died several days later. Laura, who had been taken to the restaurant for a final holiday treat, was among the most seriously hurt and her left foot had to be amputated. Jacob suffered severe spinal injuries. Mr Giddings lost a big toe and now walks with a stick. Mrs Giddings suffered serious cuts and abrasions. A total of 26 people were injured and, despite President Mandela's assertion the following day that police were "hot on the trail" of suspects, no one has yet been charged. Yesterday the family appeared tense when they arrived on a South African Airways flight and were ushered into the VIP lounge to be greet-

ed by the Mayor of Cape Town and a barrage of television and press photographers. Laura walked with a slight limp. Jacob clasped a teddy bear and clung to his mother's arm, while Mr Giddings, 38, limped on his stick. His parents, who were the only members of the family to escape injury in the blast, have opted not to make the return trip. Mr Giddings said: "As a family we are very strong. We vowed early on to return as part of our recovery process, although it will no doubt revive some very painful memories."



Mandy Giddings, left, helping her daughter, Laura, on their return to Cape Town yesterday. Jacob is behind them

Their holiday has been arranged by the Cape Town tourist industry, which saw hundreds of hotel bookings cancelled after the August bombing. As South Africa enters its peak holiday season, thousands of visitors are beginning to pour into the city and the surrounding area. Security at the waterfront and at other tourist attractions has been reinforced. After the bombing, it was found that surveillance cameras that were supposed to monitor the area around the restaurant had not been working for some time. An organisation calling itself Muslims Against Global Oppression claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was in response to American missile attacks on suspected Islamic terrorist bases in Sudan and Afghanistan, themselves prompted by bombings of US embassies in East Africa. But it is thought more likely that the restaurant attack was linked to Cape Town gang wars over drugs and territory. Pipe bomb attacks and assassinations of gang members are routine in the Coloured townships. Police have an abysmal record of arrests and convictions.

The new documents reveal that in a raid on Mr Fawwaz's home in Dollis Hill, north-west London, on September 23, police found a letter from Bin Laden's chief military adviser, Muhammad Atef, asking him to disseminate a May 1998 fatwa calling for a "holy war" against US targets. Perhaps the most damaging document is a report retrieved from a computer found at the Nairobi home of Wadhwan el-Hage, Bin Laden's former secretary, who has been charged with lying about his links to the fundamentalist leader. It was apparently written last year by Harun Fazli, still at large after being charged over the embassy blasts. He discusses a press report that British and US authorities had held an al-Qaeda member and expresses fears that the Nairobi cell could be in peril.

Saudi linked to US embassy blasts

FROM JAMES BONS IN NEW YORK

PROSECUTORS in New York released evidence yesterday that a Saudi dissident now in custody in London had direct links to the terrorist cell accused of blowing up the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in August.

US authorities made public previously sealed documents seeking the extradition of Khalid al-Fawwaz on charges of conspiring to murder Americans and soliciting attacks on US bases abroad.

Mr al-Fawwaz, who was arrested, released and rearrested by British police in September, is the head of the British-based Advice and Reform Action Committee, described as a "front organisation" for the alleged terrorist mastermind, Osama bin Laden.

The prosecutors disclosed that they have testimony from a convicted terrorist, now an informer, that Mr al-Fawwaz attended meetings in Khartoum, the Sudanese capital, of the leaders of Bin Laden's terrorist group al-Qaeda (the Base) and pledged allegiance to it. While in London, the Saudi dissident is alleged to have propagated Bin Laden's orders, including fatwas against Americans.

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US in new row with Beijing over arrests

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON



Xu Wenli, left, with Wei Jingsheng in Beijing in 1996. Mr Wei was exiled to the United States early this year

A NEW dispute has broken out between the United States and China over human rights abuses after a crackdown on dissidents in Beijing.

The round-up of prominent democratic activists drew condemnation from the State Department, which in turn was told by China to mind its own business. The arrests of Xu Wenli and Qin Yongmin in police raids this week signal the

determination of the authorities to crush attempts to establish a Chinese Democratic Party in opposition to the Communist Party. Other democracy advocates began a hunger strike in protest.

"We conveyed our strong views to officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Beijing and urged the authorities to release Xu immediately," the State Department spokesman, James Rubin, said. "We view his detention for peacefully exercising fundamental

freedoms guaranteed by international human rights instruments as a serious step in the wrong direction."

The Foreign Ministry said that Mr Xu was suspected of "activities which had harmed national security and his acts have violated relevant criminal codes. This is an internal matter and other nations should not interfere."

Mr Xu was arrested in Beijing and Mr Qin in Wuhan after six months spent trying to co-ordinate a nationwide net-

work of political activists. Two other dissidents in Wuhan, Chen Zhonghe and Xiao Shichang, were also arrested, but released after questioning yesterday.

Wang Youcai, a student leader during the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, who has been in custody for a month, was formally arrested.


Zha Jianguo, a colleague of Mr Xu, said the police had warned him that attempts to set up the new party should end and that Mr Xu would

not be released soon and would be charged with links to reactionary groups.

The US Embassy in Beijing asked the Foreign Ministry for information on Mr Xu, but none was forthcoming.

Two former Tiananmen Square student leaders began a hunger strike in protest at the arrests, and almost 200 dissidents from around the country sent an open letter to the Government demanding the release of Mr Xu, Mr Qin and Mr Wang.

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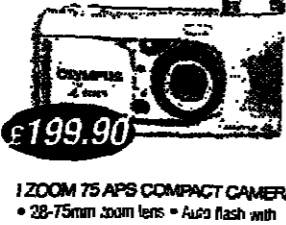


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Indian military exercises stir border tension

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

ABOUT 60,000 troops are conducting India's largest military exercises in a decade close to the Pakistan border, including training in nuclear and chemical weapons warfare. The exercises come at a time of deepening hostility between the two nuclear powers.

Pakistan has moved 20,000 troops close to its side of the border in response, although both countries are keeping their forces about 80 miles apart in line with international norms. Delhi said that it was using no live ammunition.

Islamabad has issued a formal protest over what it regards as Indian provocation.

The joint army-air force manoeuvres, which began at the weekend, involve 300 tanks, 160 fighter planes and helicopters, a new Russian-made air defence system and new military hardware bought from Israel. India says that the exercises are designed as "a review of our doctrine in a situation of nuclear balance".

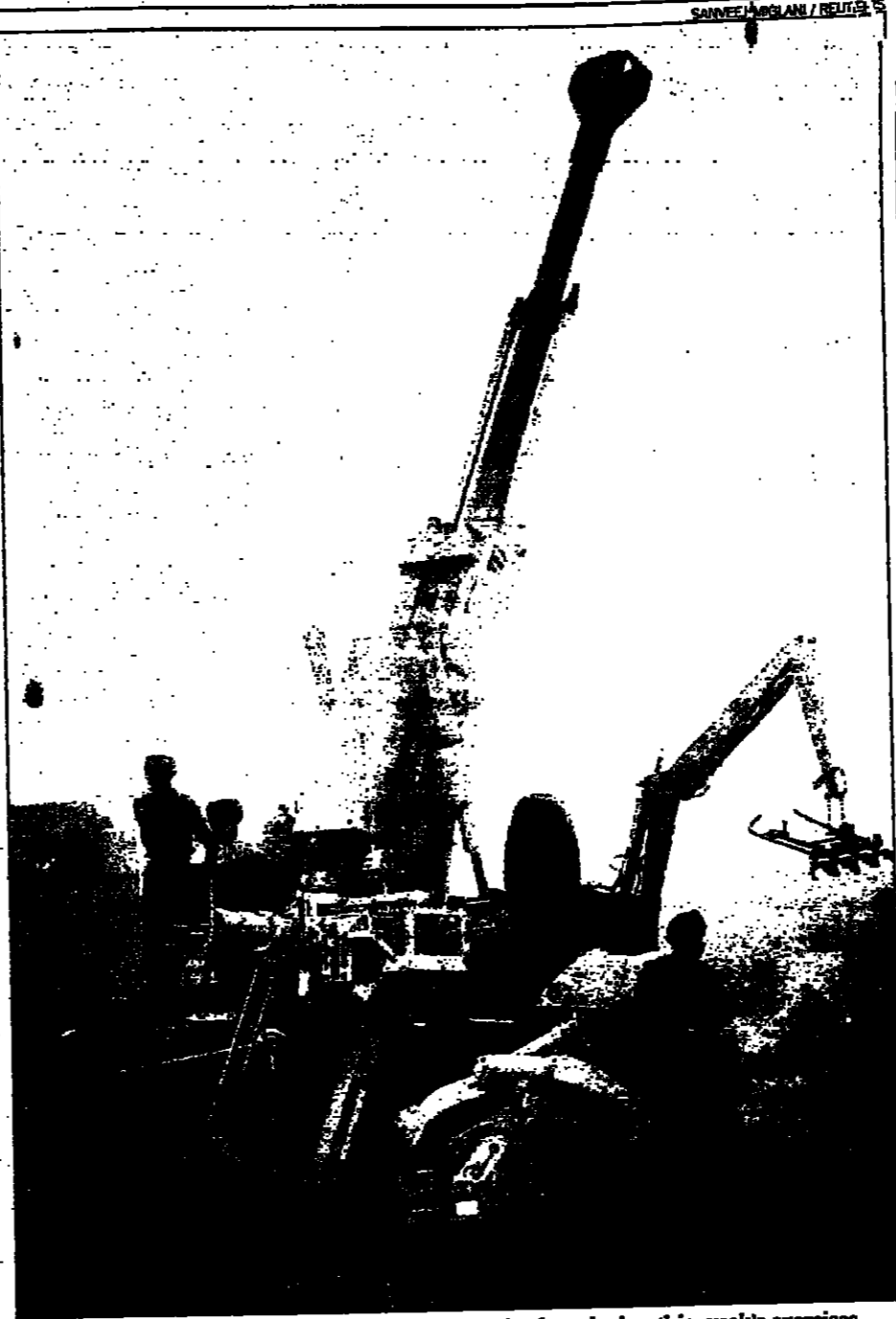
India exploded nuclear devices in the Rajasthan desert in May, and Pakistan followed suit soon afterwards. The manoeuvres follow recent talks between senior officials from the two countries on a range of disputed issues, in which there was scant progress. There was even disagreement over a bland final joint communiqué talking of full, frank and co-operative discussions. Pakistan insisted on the removal of the word "co-operative".

For the first time, the Prithvi short-range missile developed by India is being deployed for the exercises. India is developing its nuclear weapons programme with the aim of putting a nuclear head on the Prithvi and other longer-range missiles. The short-range Prithvi was developed essentially for targeting at Pakistan.

Lieutenant Colonel H.M. Khanna, the Indian military chief, said the Prithvi was being tested only in its conventional role. Other senior officers said that training for nuclear and chemical warfare was "not something new because we have known about Pakistan's nuclear capability for ten years".

Several years ago, India and Pakistan came close to conflict during military exercises in India known as Operation Brass Tacks, but the tension was defused in direct talks. Pakistan is likely soon to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, but has made it clear that its nuclear weapons programme, assisted by China, will be continuing. India is also likely to sign the treaty towards the end of next year.

Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani



Indian troops deploy an artillery piece in Rajasthan during this week's exercises

Prime Minister, is in Washington for talks with President Clinton, during which he will seek delivery of F16 aircraft — blocked because of Islamabad's nuclear programme — and attempt to persuade the US to accept Pakistan's point of view in the Kashmir dispute.

Washington, however, is more interested in trying to secure nuclear restraint in South Asia, the world's most likely nuclear battleground.

The official in charge of Pakistan's atomic energy commission was quoted as saying yesterday that scientists had built

WORLD IN BRIEF

Gallery sued over 'stolen' Braque

Paris: The Pompidou Centre in Paris is being sued for allegedly receiving stolen goods by the heirs of a Jewish art collector, who claims that a valuable painting in the museum was stolen by the Nazis and should be returned to them (Ben Macintyre writes). Georges Braque's masterpiece *The Guitar Player*, one of the world's most important Cubist works, was seized in 1940 from the home of Alphonse Kann. His heirs claim that officials at the Pompidou Centre were aware of the painting's dubious provenance when it was acquired in 1981. The museum has refused to return the Braque, saying that it was bought "in good faith" for £1.6 million.

New Lebanese leader

Beirut: Salim al-Hoss, the veteran Lebanese politician, has replaced Rafik Hariri, the flamboyant billionaire, as Lebanon's Prime Minister (Nicholas Blandford writes). Mr al-Hoss has served as Prime Minister on four previous occasions. The abrupt departure of Mr Hariri after six years in office has caused considerable shock in Beirut. Mr al-Hoss has the formidable task of dealing with the ailing economy and the Israeli occupation of the south.

Gates's \$100m gift

New York: Bill Gates, the world's richest man, who has been criticised for not giving away more of his \$60 billion (£35 billion) fortune, is to donate \$100 million to help to speed the delivery of vaccines to Third World children (James Bone writes). The Microsoft chairman, who has said he plans eventually to give away 95 per cent of his wealth, will channel the money through a health charity in Seattle, his home town.

Bombs sent to taxmen

Canberra: Police warned all 17,000 Australian tax officials to beware of letter bombs after one exploded in a post office, slightly injuring a worker, and 21 more were found by postal workers. Michael Carmody, the Tax Commissioner, said that he was taking steps to ensure the safety of his employees. Another letter bomb was found on Tuesday in Sydney and was detonated by bomb squad police. (AP)

Bid to save fallen Ms

New York: The American feminist, Gloria Steinem, has recruited a band of wealthy women to rescue her favourite child, *Ms* magazine (James Bone writes). The publication of child, *Ms* magazine (James Bone writes). The publication of the pioneering feminist magazine, which *Ms* Steinem co-founded in 1972, was suspended by its corporate owner as circulation had fallen to 200,000. At its peak it sold 540,000. The purchase is expected to cost \$3 million (£1.8 million).

Alert over Hindu march on shrine

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

PARAMILITARY forces were put on alert to protect a Sufi shrine in southern India as extremist Hindus threatened to storm it in a mass rally today.

There was uproar in the Indian parliament amid concerns that Muslims were about to suffer another insult at the hands of religious fanatics. Sufis, mostly concentrated in Kashmir, are a tiny proportion of the Islamic population.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a fanatical group that was instrumental in the destruction six years ago of the Babri mosque in the holy city of Ayodhya, says that it has "suicide squads" which will attempt to occupy the shrine if the planned march is halted.

The Hazrat Dada Hayat Qalandar shrine, venerated by Hindus and Muslims, is in the normally peaceful coastal state of Karnataka. The 300-year-old monument is dedicated to a Sufi saint, Baba Budangiri. In a rowdy debate, opposition MPs in the Rajya Sabha (upper house) demanded firm government action to protect it.

L. K. Advani, the Home Minister responsible for internal security and who is associated with hardline Hindus, was closely involved in events that led to the destruction of the Babri mosque. Hindu extremists say the shrine, which they want to rename, should be used only by Hindus.

Anwar 'used driver as homosexual slave'

Kuala Lumpur: In the most riveting testimony so far in the corruption and sex trial of Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's detained former Deputy Prime Minister, his wife's former driver testified yesterday that he was Mr Anwar's "homosexual slave".

Azizan Abu Bakar told the court that everything he said in a sworn statement on August 5, 1997, when Mr Anwar was still in Government, was true. Reading

from that statement, Mr Azizan, 38, said: "In the name of Allah... I have become a victim of homosexual acts by Anwar Ibrahim. This heinous act was committed several times in 1992 against my will. It regularly took place in luxury hotels... without the knowledge of the public and his wife." Mr Azizan was the driver for Mr Anwar's wife, Dr Wan Azizah Ismail, from 1989 to 1992. He is now a sales executive.

"I had on several occasions tried to resist," he said. "The feeling of guilt finally overcame me whenever I had to gaze on Anwar, who had such high moral character. Finally I made the decision to stop from becoming a homosexual slave to this man, whom I regard as an animal."

Mr Anwar did not react to the testimony. He denies the charges, calling them a conspiracy to ruin him politically. (AP)

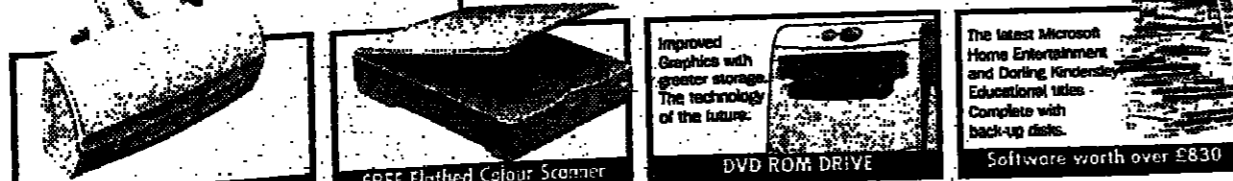
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Advice of interest rate changes for personal customers from 3 December 1998

Rates for Savers

High Interest Savings 60 days notice (Annual interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
£100,000 +	6.85%	6.35%	6.35%
£50,000 +	6.55%	6.05%	6.05%
£10,000 +	6.45%	5.95%	5.95%
Up to £10,000	6.25%	5.75%	5.75%

Midland Instant Access Savings (Monthly interest option)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
£50,000 +	6.00%	5.50%	5.50%
£25,000 +	5.35%	4.85%	4.85%
£10,000 +	4.85%	4.20%	4.20%
£5,000 +	4.60%	4.00%	4.00%
Up to £5,000	4.25%	4.00%	4.00%

Deposit Account 7 days notice (No longer sold)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
£50,000 +	5.92%	5.44%	5.50%
£25,000 +	5.29%	4.61%	4.65%
£10,000 +	4.80%	4.16%	4.20%
£5,000 +	4.56%	3.97%	4.00%
Up to £5,000	4.21%	3.97%	4.00%

Tessa and follow-up Tessa (Annual Tax Free Interest)	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	7.80%	7.30%	

Mortgages*

	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	APR	APR	Int. Rate p.a.
Home Loan Rate	9.0%	8.5%	8.20%
Home Improvement Loan Rate (loans sanctioned before 26 April 98)	11.8%	10.5%	10.20%
Home Mortgage Rate	8.9%	8.4%	8.20%

Other Secured Borrowing

HomeOwner Reserve	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	APR	APR	Int. Rate p.a.
	12.6%	11.80%	11.40%

Base Rate 6.75%
effective from 5 November 1998

Bank Accounts

Student Bank Account	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	1.99%	1.49%	1.50%

16 - 19 Year Old Account	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	2.23%	1.74%	1.75%

Livecash	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	4.17%	3.93%	4.00%

Midland Bank Account	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
	0.40%	0.25%	0.25%

Meridian Bank Account	Old Rate	New Rate from 3 Dec 98	
	Gross	Gross	Gross CAR
£50,000 +	3.45%	3.45%	3.50%
£10,000 +	3.21%	2.96%	3.00%
£2,000 +	1.49%	1.49%	1.50%
Up to £2,000	1.00%	0.50%	0.50%

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax, applicable to savings.
Gross CAR (Compounded Annual Rate): The true gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments.
Tax Free: Tax Free means that interest is not subject to income tax.
*Mortgage rates for new borrowers were effective from 17 November 1998.
All rates are correct as at 3 December 1998 but may vary in the future.

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Soccer match hostage to Kurd politics

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

ABOUT 22,000 police officers were guarding an Istanbul football stadium yesterday in preparation for last night's match between Juventus and Galatasaray.

The game is seen in Turkey less as a chance to win Group B of the Uefa Cup qualifying rounds as to avenge national honour after Italy's refusal to extradite Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish rebel leader, and the Turkish Government's most wanted man.

Headlines in yesterday's Turkish press appealed to spectators not to give in to violence that would force the home side out of the tournament. "It is going to be hell out there, but a gentlemanly hell," Fatih Terim, the Galatasaray coach, said. Anger towards Italy has bordered on hysteria in Turkey after the leader of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) appeared to find safe haven in Rome nearly two weeks ago.

Italy will not extradite Mr Ocalan to a country that has the death penalty and Turkey suspects that a proposal to have him appear before a specially constituted international tribunal will serve only to put its own handling of Kurdish dissent on trial.

Most Turks see the PKK as responsible for 14 years of conflict in the southeast of the country that has cost the lives of conscripts, teachers and of children.

Match organisers were hoping to keep political passions off the pitch. Spectators had to pass through three police searches and were forbidden to take political banners, loose change or even mobile phones into the ground. Juventus arrived in Istanbul yesterday, just in time for the match, rather than a day early as demanded by Uefa regulations.

Arab mob disarms Israeli soldier

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN RAMALLAH

A PALESTINIAN mob stoned and burnt an Israeli car in Ramallah yesterday, beating the two Jewish occupants, while in Jerusalem an Arab was murdered by a suspected Jewish serial killer.

Palestinian students demonstrating for the release of prisoners ambushed the car, smashing its windows with stones and then pulling out an Israeli soldier and stealing his semi-automatic rifle.

The students from Bir Zeit University were in the vanguard of protests that are expected to escalate with an indefinite hunger strike by more than 2,000 prisoners held in Israeli jails. These and other demonstrations are likely to visit Gaza and Bethlehem on December 12-15.

The car incident began when a white vehicle with Israeli number plates, being driven on a West Bank road controlled by the Israeli Army, approached a mob stoning Israeli vehicles at a roundabout near the sprawling Israeli settlement of Beit El.

To shouts of "Yahudi! Yahudi!" — the Arabic for Jew — about 30 Palestinians began pelting the car with stones. The driver halted the vehicle and ran for safety while the crowd converged on the uniformed passenger. They beat him and stole his M16 assault rifle. After a minute of unrelenting attack, the soldier, his head pouring blood, managed to run away. The mob then doused the car with petrol and set it alight as they shouted anti-Israeli slogans.

The demonstrators then hurled stones at an Israeli army vehicle that arrived on the scene. Soldiers quickly responded with teargas and rubber bullets. Several people, including two television cameramen, were wounded in the violence. The Jewish settler movement in the West Bank and Gaza said that the attack was the result of "organised incitement by Palestinian Authority officials to harm settlers".

The Israeli Army, angry and embarrassed by the incident, demanded an investigation by Palestinian officials and the return of the stolen weapon. They then prevented a convoy of Palestinian police from leaving Ramallah, the headquarters of the Palestinian Legislative Council, until the inquiry took place.

Earlier, the Palestinian media reported plans for Mr Clinton to be greeted by handcuffed Arab children raising banners saying, "I want my Dad", and for black flags to fly on the rooftops in all the Palestinian areas which he visits.

In an angry letter to Mr Clinton, Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, described the failure to halt an Israeli incitement as one of "four major areas of violations" by Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, of the peace accord, under which Israeli troops are soon due to withdraw from more of the West Bank.

Mr Netanyahu claimed that the Palestinian Authority had done nothing to prevent a recent demonstration in Nablus in which Palestinians paraded, dressed as suicide bombers, and US and Israeli flags were burned.

The ugly mood awaiting Mr Clinton was reinforced by the murder of Osama Musa Naise, a 41-year-old father of six children, as he was walking to work in the mixed Jerusalem neighbourhood of Abu Tor. He was stabbed repeatedly by a masked Jew with a knife bearing the word "revenge" in Hebrew. Police believe the killer may be a man on their wanted list who has stabbed five Arabs in the city since 1997, killing one.



Palestinian students attack an Israeli car near Ramallah yesterday, and steal a soldier's M16 rifle after beating him to the ground. An injured Israeli civilian flees shortly before the soldier's car is set alight with a petrol bomb

Funds ruling brings all digs to halt

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

ARCHAEOLOGY in the Holy Land has suffered a severe blow with the indefinite closure of most excavations in Israel as the result of a ruling by the Supreme Court.

Osnat Goaz, spokeswoman for the Israel Antiquities Authority, said yesterday that about 300 of the 350 excavations carried out in Israel each year would be affected and that 700 workers had been laid off as a result.

The authority has halted all its salvage digs after the ruling that developers and building contractors can no longer be charged for the excavations — which the Government refuses to finance. Under Israeli law, practically no building development can go ahead unless there has been a salvage dig. Ms Goaz said that digging at most sites has stopped. Among the places involved are sites at Jerusalem, Acre and Beit Shean.

It is almost impossible to start a building or a road in Israel without uncovering ancient remains. About 25,000 sites have been excavated or are awaiting digs, covering between them some 10 per cent of the country's area.

After receiving a petition from a developer, the Supreme Court ruled that the Government, not the builder, must bear the cost of the salvage digs. Ms Goaz said that the response had been to stop work, "because we have no budget for salvage digs".

Amir Druor, the director of the authority, said after appearing before the Knesset that he hoped it would enact legislation "within a month or two" that would either provide for government financing of salvage digs or legally require developers to finance them.

The ruling comes at a time when archaeology in Israel is already in crisis because of fierce resistance to excavations from religious Jews, who object to human bones being disturbed. Religious Jews hold a record 23 seats in the 120-member parliament and strongly influence the Government of Binyamin Netanyahu.

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Every day another loss to grieve



This year *The Times* Christmas Appeal highlights the work of the Alzheimer's Research Trust. Money raised will fund research into risk factors. Here Dr Thomas Stuttaford explains why we must unravel the causes of the disease.

As there are 650,000 people in the UK with dementia, of whom 400,000 are thought to have Alzheimer's disease, it is not surprising that the latter is often in the news. It affects people of every type, race, intellect and class.

Earlier this year we had the touching account of John Bayley's care for his wife, Iris Murdoch, and his perspicacious description of how the disease has affected her and their relationship. Within months of Bayley's book being published there has been a general discussion on the possibility that a very different character, General Augusto Pinochet of Chile, could be showing early signs of the disease.

It is not yet an odds-on bet that signs of Alzheimer's could be detected in the 83-year-old general but as each month passes the odds are shortening, so that his lawyers may soon be able to argue that he shows signs of the disease. Every day in the UK 500 people develop dementia: the vast majority are the result of Alzheimer's. From 70 onwards the incidence of the disease doubles every five years. An 83-year-old man has a statistical likelihood of greater than one in four of having it. Although the disease is mainly one of old age, it can affect younger age groups.

Research is needed not only to unravel the causes of the disease but also to find ways of making the earliest possible accurate diagnosis so that Alzheimer's, which cannot be cured, can be treated promptly. There are two drugs available, Aricept (donepezil) and Exelon (rivastigmine). The former is useful in about a third of cases with mild to moderate symptoms. Exelon is used to treat a similar range of patients. It improves short-term memory and gives patients a better social manner, enabling them to eat and dress independently and generally to function better in all daily activities. The longer patients retain their independence, the longer they retain their dignity. Aricept and Exelon are acetylcholinesterase inhibitors and may cause nausea, vomiting or even more serious reactions and should be taken under the supervision of doctors accustomed to their use.

Families and friends are usually more aware of early changes signalling the possible onset of dementia than are doctors, who all too often see the patients only on their best behaviour in the artificial surrounding of the surgery. Family members can occasionally be misled, usually because they are so close to the patient that they fail to notice any gradual decline and accept unusual behaviour as the norm. This point was made by John Bayley; it seems friends were aware of the disease's encroachment long before him.

Early diagnosis is important not only so early medication can be started; if people are forewarned about their condition, always with the proviso that nobody can predict how rapidly it will advance, they can make legal and financial provisions and help to decide the nature of the medical and social care they may need. At an early stage of the disease they can discuss symptoms

with their doctors, and the impact these may have on their domestic circumstances. But if diagnosis is left too late, after intellectual facilities have been badly damaged, they may never be able to talk about the problems their disability will cause their family and how they may be alleviated.

The medical as well as social care benefits from an early diagnosis. In its infancy doctors may find it easier to distinguish the disease from other conditions that mimic Alzheimer's, which in the past was under-diagnosed — one small disadvantage stemming from today's greater openness in discussing dementia and Alzheimer's is that now too many people assume that all dementia is the result of Alzheimer's, and as a result other treatable causes of dementia are overlooked.

The most common mistake is to confuse Alzheimer's with benign memory loss, less kindly known as benign senile forgetfulness. Loss of short-term memory, especially for names, some slowness in recalling a word and an inability to remember where keys, spectacles or pens have been put may be the first sign of Alzheimer's, but it is an almost inevitable accompaniment of growing older, as much part of the ageing process as grey hair.

Alzheimer's is more than memory loss: it is the relentless disintegration of every aspect of someone's personality so that a loved friend or partner eventually becomes unrecognisable. As one patient's husband said: "I lose another part of my wife every day. Every day I have another loss to grieve."



Alzheimer's disease is more than just memory loss — it is the relentless disintegration of every aspect of someone's personality

may at a superficial level be mistaken for Alzheimer's. Depressed patients also suffer from loss of memory. Their attention is so distracted by gloomy thoughts that short-term memory is affected and life seems so appalling that its trivia are hardly worth bothering with. Their thoughts, too, become slow and they may also suffer from irritability.

The case of Ernest Saunders of Guinness showed the difficulty of differentiating between Alzheimer's and the curable pseudo-dementia — his release wasn't a result of clever barristers but mystified doctors.

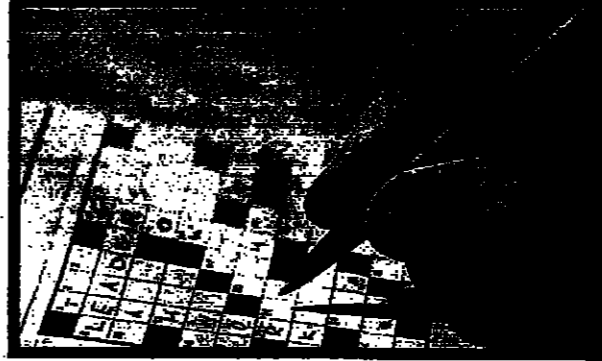
The doctor seeking clinical depression looks for the characteristic signs and symptoms that occur in any age group. Disturbed sleep patterns, self-depreciation, variation in the level of depression over 24 hours so that the person is more cheerful in the evenings than mornings, feelings of hopelessness, loss of appetite, and hence loss of weight, may all point to depression being the problem not Alzheimer's.

The disease may also be confused with thyroid deficiency, other debilitating illnesses, inappropriately prescribed tranquillisers or cerebral tumours. The patient suffering from genuine Alzheimer's is not only likely to suffer from loss of memory, but also have great

difficulty in acquiring new ideas and retaining new information. Organised reasoning is difficult, as is carrying out even relatively simple mechanical tasks. Conversation becomes stilted, comments monosyllabic and behaviour unreliable. Although patients with advanced Alzheimer's tend to be withdrawn, reclusive and irritable, in its early stages there may be loss of inhibition so that the once reserved and sensitive person, say, becomes the bawdy and brash party-goer.

Alzheimer's also needs distinguishing from two other common causes of dementia. A disease that produces very similar symptoms is Lewy body dementia, albeit the progressive nervous tissue degeneration affects a different part of the brain. Thus there are differences in the symptomatology and treatment. Some drugs prescribed for patients with Alzheimer's makes Lewy body dementia worse. Those with the latter tend to have fluctuating levels of disability and far more delusions and hallucinations. They also have some symptoms of Parkinson's disease and tend to fall, with transitory attacks of unconsciousness.

Another likely cause of dementia is vascular dementia, whereby a series of small, often unrecognised strokes slowly destroy the brain. Often these strokes occur in people who also have Alzheimer's and produce a mixed pattern of dementia. Caring out smoking, treating high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol may delay the progress of vascular dementia. Knowledge will, in time, protect us from the scourge of Alzheimer's, and this can come only from research.



The Times crossword is good exercise for the brain

Too many assume it is the cause of all dementia

Research is needed not only to unravel the causes of the disease but also to find ways of making the earliest possible accurate diagnosis so that Alzheimer's, which cannot be cured, can be treated promptly. There are two drugs available, Aricept (donepezil) and Exelon (rivastigmine). The former is useful in about a third of cases with mild to moderate symptoms. Exelon is used to treat a similar range of patients. It improves short-term memory and gives patients a better social manner, enabling them to eat and dress independently and generally to function better in all daily activities. The longer patients retain their independence, the longer they retain their dignity. Aricept and Exelon are acetylcholinesterase inhibitors and may cause nausea, vomiting or even more serious reactions and should be taken under the supervision of doctors accustomed to their use.

REDUCE THE RISK OF A SAD DECLINE

Who, with increasing age, is likely to suffer from memory loss, with a paucity of language, an inability to acquire new knowledge and a loss of manual dexterity — so that their old age, and the last years of those closest to them, are destroyed by their inability to think, plan, communicate and remember?

The Alzheimer's Research Trust has centres in Aberdeen, Dundee, Cardiff, the Institute of Neurology in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Newcastle and Manchester. The Trust is studying the risk factors which may determine who is likely to develop Alzheimer's. If its causes are found, it may be possible to delay, or prevent, its onset.

In one per cent of cases, Alzheimer's is acquired as a dominantly inherited characteristic. The child of an affected parent has a 50-50 chance of inheriting the disease. It seems likely that in many other families, people inherit a susceptibility to Alzheimer's which may only be revealed when triggered by a variety of possible factors in their lifestyle or environment.

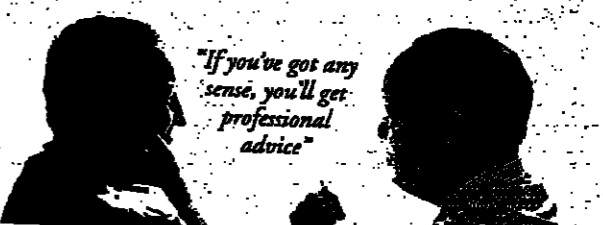
Those, for instance, who are gifted intellectually are less likely to develop Alzheimer's, particularly if they exercise their brains regularly. It has now been suggested that, as with physical fitness, intellectual alertness needs at least 20 minutes hard exercise each day. People should extend their minds, it was recommended, by doing *The Times* crossword or writing. Iris Murdoch's case shows that this advice, however statistical-

Alcohol luckily seems to exert a protective influence

Alcohol, luckily, seems to exert a protective influence, likewise folic acid, vitamin E and other antioxidant vitamins. It's a mistake, to smoke; few know if they have the genetic make-up which may make it advantageous. Aspirin and other non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drugs are being tested for their preventative power. It has long been noted that the "rheumy" old person in the bar remains intelligent — is this the alcohol, the anti-rheumatic pills or, as we now think, both factors? Many of these influences may act on the small blood vessels of the brain and keep them open and clean, and hence the nervous tissue well-oxygenated.

Alzheimer's Research Trust Appeal

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What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE, TREATMENT and ME"

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THE SUNDAY TIMES THE NEXT GIANT LEAP Now water has been found on the moon, can it be long before pioneering settlers make fantasy a reality? Britain's astronomer royal, Sir Martin Rees, gazes into the future. Plus what the colonists would wear, eat, live in and do all day. Special issue on the moon, The Sunday Times Magazine this weekend. THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

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Reb who thro the ch theo into Euro

Rebel who has thrown the chaos theory into Europe

The German Finance Minister's radical ideas have created a furore. Profile by Roger Boyes

Oskar Lafontaine is a man in a hurry. The new German Government, accustomed to the slumbering pace set in the last years of Helmut Kohl's rule, has been sleep-walking since the general election, slightly dazed in the manner of someone who has just survived a car crash.

Not Herr Lafontaine, however. The tubby 55-year-old physicist has, in the words of an admirer, reinvented chaos theory. Within days of taking over power, the Finance Minister declared war on the Bundesbank, shot across the bows of the European Central Bank, turned economic orthodoxies on their head, irritated the Cabinet, the parliamentary faction of the Social Democrats and boxed Chancellor Gerhard Schröder into a corner. Within weeks he turned his fierce gaze on Europe. Plans for tax harmonisation, extended majority voting, tighter political integration, a budget rebate — all, and more, to be in place by the end of Germany's presidency next summer. By Christmas, everyone feels sure, he will have taken on the world, earning his nickname of the Napoleon of the Saar. Germany will soon be in the chair of the G-7 group of leading industrial states and Herr Lafontaine, the former anti-capitalist, anti-American student, wants tight controls on international capital markets.

He is depicted in German cartoons as the sorcerer's apprentice, turning amok with the magic wand of power. There is something in that. He dearly wanted to be Chancellor but scored one of the worst ever results for the Social Democrats when he ran against Helmut Kohl in 1990. His friends say that his political ambition started to wane that year when he was attacked on the election trail by a demented woman with a knife. After recovering physically, he slumped into depression. That changed in part because of a love affair with Christa Müller, a strewed, blonde economist. She — often described as Germany's Lady Macbeth — was a researcher at the Social Democrats' think-tank, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, with a stint in Brussels behind her. When they met she favoured a spiky punk hairstyle. Herr Lafontaine has always been attracted to strong, unconventional women. His second wife, a sculptress, tells tales of wild parties before their marriage turned sour. Now Christa is groomed in the manner of Hillary Clinton, married for five years, the mother of Herr Lafontaine's son — and co-conspirator of "the most dangerous man in Europe."

Together, 42-year-old Christa and her husband wrote a book, *Don't Be Afraid of Globalisation*, which sets out the programme that is now steadily being put into place. It is full of statements about the winning of environment and

Everyone feels sure he will take on the world by Christmas



The man with the big ideas: Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, is turning his gaze towards Europe

economy, about the evils of low wage (and low tax) competition. The point of the book — the theoretical bits of which were written by Christa — is to give ideological contours to Herr Lafontaine. In that sense, it is a success: he is the only man in Government who seems to believe in anything. Perhaps he is the only politician in Europe. The collapse of Christian Democracy in Europe has left the Continent without a context. When Helmut Kohl and Jacques Delors ran the European Union, it was plain that Europe was essentially Christian, a Catholic Carolingian culture connecting the Continent. Then North European Protestants, pragmatic centre-leftists, moved in and a more open, free trading, less dogmatic Europe seemed to beckon. But the fact is they had no European idea. The Third Way, the ideology of Thatcher-Nor, was no substitute. There was talk of a "social" Europe, which meant one willing to spend money on creating jobs. Little else was on offer.

Suddenly Herr Lafontaine has leapt on to the platform. He is not a Protestant manager but rather a Jesuit-schooled ideologue and can see how a Kohl-like commitment to political integration can be married to a tax-and-spend economic programme, which he calls Euro-Keynesianism (Keynes-

level having failed). Friends of Herr Lafontaine (though at the caricature presented by the British press. They know him as a man who likes good food, fine wine, a game of boules, a gossip with his mainly male friends (who trade unprintable jokes about feminists). That has always been part of his character and propelled him into some strange company while he was Prime Minister of the Saarland region. With Christa, he has melowed — the talk is of retiring one day to an ecologically correct farm in the Saar or, perhaps, Tuscany — but at the same time he has become more serious. It is Christa Müller, who brought his two key economic advisers, Claus Noé and Heiner Flassbeck, to their kitchen table for long informal seminars. During the Kohl years, the two men were virtually dissidents in the community of academic economists. They believed in the euro but not in the rigidities of the Maastricht entry criteria. Now they are in the Finance Ministry of Europe's most powerful economy and have hatched the "red euro".

Dr Flassbeck's merit — or perhaps weakness — is that he has not changed his mind in 20 years. That is part of his attraction for Oskar Lafontaine, who sometimes talks as

It is a tragedy a power struggle is hindering reforms

if he were living in the early 1980s. The Flassbeck credo holds sway: domestic demand fuels growth, growth creates jobs. So: stimulate demand, end wage restraint, put more money into play since Germany's traditional dragon, inflation, has been slain.

Christa Müller, the daughter of hard-working Frankfurt hotel owners, has encouraged her husband to seek new models. Her father used to make the beds and dinner for the children, her mother did the books. She sees that as a model not only for her own relationship, but also working behaviour in Germany. Perhaps it was she who persuaded Herr Lafontaine that the future lay in flexible working hours rather than in freezing wages. In any case, Herr Lafontaine was a convert to arrangements between employers and workers which allowed factories to work at weekends. German productivity has been kept high thanks to four-day weeks or more mobile workforces. In that sense Herr Lafontaine is a moderniser.

Where lies the strength of Herr Lafontaine? Partly in the weakness of Chancellor Schröder. The Chancellor is prone to self-doubt; sometimes he withdraws into his shell like an armadillo, invulnerable but also impassive. He has few friends, but they are good ones. Herr Lafontaine by contrast would rather make an imperfect decision than none at all. He has many friendships, few of them deep: that is the better political constellation for a man who has to skate quickly over thin ice. The Chancellor and his Finance Minister have self-discipline but Herr Lafontaine has the ability to demand, and secure, discipline from others.

As chairman of the Social Democratic Party — a post he still holds — he kept his party united and essentially won the election. Chancellor Schröder has never been much of a party man and so feels it difficult to say no to the party's chairman, his conduit of communication with the constituencies. There is thus no real parallel with Mr Blair, who also has an erstwhile rival at the Treasury. Mr Blair did his own party disciplining. The party saw Herr Schröder as a gladiator sent into combat to win the election. He has fulfilled the task, and as far as the party faithful are concerned he can step aside for Herr Lafontaine, their true champion.

The tragedy is that the power struggle is handicapping what could have been a genuinely reform-minded Government, one ready to shake society out of its torpor. Instead, it has become a scramble for influence, with a complicated social conservative, Oskar

You're still alone with a mobile phone

Mobile phones are no substitute for friendship, says Vanora Bennett

It's rush hour, the train's full, and somewhere in the crush a piercing electronic tune has just begun. Half a dozen people anxiously pat their pockets. Others sigh theatrically and mutter in barely suppressed hostility. When the mobile phone finally comes out it is clamped to the ear of its owner. "Yes, yes," he booms. "I'm on the train."

Telephone technology has made us ridiculously accessible, as the socialite Tara Palmer-Tompkinson confirmed this week with the announcement to *Hello!* magazine that she receives 35 messages on her voice mail every day.

It's not just that our privacy can be invaded at any moment. Detractors also argue that the mobile phone culture can isolate those who rely on it. As Ms Palmer-Tompkinson puts it: "I'm still really lonely. I just want one call from someone I really want to hear from."

Could it be that people are limiting themselves to the illusion of friendship offered by a hurried on-the-move chat and missing out on the more genuine intimacy of face-to-face relationships? That in our eagerness to take advantage of modern technology (and the pose factor that still goes with owning a mobile) we have forgotten how to have proper, fulfilling relationships in which we actually communicate with people?

"These things are all little decays of civility," says the writer and psychologist Rosalind Miles. "By its nature, mobile phone conversation is disjointed and fragmented. It's no substitute for a real conversation."

The most enthusiastic mobile users focus on their ease of access to other people and do not seem to worry about having to accept conversations instigated by someone else.

"I certainly talk to more people," says Jane Procter, the Editor of *Tatler*. "Most people I know have a mobile. In fact,



Mobile zone: nowhere is safe

ogy. Learning to reassert your privacy by switching it off or using recall services removes the fear of being too much at someone else's beck and call.

"We are all used to using answering machines as a way of avoiding people — calling when we know they're not there so we can leave a message," she says. But with mobiles, the art of taming the technology is still being worked out.

Etiquette is only gradually becoming established — is it rude to take mobile calls at a dinner party, or at work? — and many users are only gradually shaking off pre-mobile notions of politeness that expose them to too many demands on their time and attention.

"Sometimes it's a great disadvantage to have to respond to someone too quickly," says Dr Rowe. "You've got to feel at least a bit in control of all the messages coming in."

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ROADSIDE SITES

Affron, Alton (Four Marks), Alwinton, Amersbury (Sonechenge), Baldoak (Beck), Bangor, Barnesley, Barton Mills, Barton Stacey, Basingstoke, Beckington, Bedford (South West), Beworth (Mancaster), Billingshurst, Birmingham (Central), Bognor Regis (Fontwell), Bristol (Cribbs Causeway), Burford (Cotswolds), Burnley, Burton (South), Cambridge (West), Canterbury (North), Canterbury (West), Chesham, Chester (Northop Hall), Chichester (West), Cork, Crewe, Doncaster, Dorling, Droivich, Dublin (Newan Road), Dudley (Birmingham), Dumbarlan, Dumfries, Dundee, Duraskole (Flores), Edinburgh (South), Ely, Fressing Colchester, Glasgow (Hill Street), Grantham (New Ford), Great Yarmouth (Acle), Hallyn (N Wales), Hartlebury, Hellingly (Eastbourne), Hickstead, Hull (South Cave), Huntingdon, Ilminster, Ipswich (Beacon Hill), Ipswich (Capel), Ipswich (Stowmarket), Kilmarnock, Kings Lynn (Long Suttan), Leicester (North), Lincoln, Liphook (Hants), Littlehampton, Llanelli (Cross Hands), London (Battersea), London (Hill), Ludlow, Macclesfield, Market Harborough, Milton Keynes, Newcastle (East), Newcastle (North), North Muskham, Northampton (Upton Way), Norwich, Nuneaton, Okehampton (East), Okehampton (West), Oldbury (Gosney), Oxford (East), Penzance, Porthill, Pottersfield (Barnstake), Preston (Charley), Retford, Rugby, Rugeley, Scagfield, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Skeby Scotch Corner, Skipton, Steaford, St Cleans (Carmarthen), St Helens, Stoke, Stonehouse, Stratford (Alcester), Sutton Coldfield, Taunton, Telford, Thame, Thrapston, Tiverton, Towcester (Silverstone), Uppingham, Uttoxeter, Waterford (Ireland), Wellington, Widsnes, Wincal (Bebington), Worsop, Wrexham, Yewl (Pudmore), York.

OBITUARIES

FREDDIE YOUNG

Freddie Young, OBE cinematographer, died on December 1 aged 96. He was born on October 2, 1902.

Freddie Young's reputation as one of the world's great film cameramen - in the view of many the greatest - rested on the firmest of foundations. There were the Oscars for the three David Lean-directed films Lawrence of Arabia (1962), Doctor Zhivago (1965) and Ryan's Daughter (1970) and his two Oscar nominations for Ivanhoe (1952) and Nicholas and Alexandra (1972). But there was also the roll-call of the great cameramen who served their apprenticeships under him: Jack Cardiff, Freddie Francis, Jack Hilyard, Nicholas Roeg. To these achievements is added the extraordinary longevity of a career that began in 1917, when the cinema itself had only just come of age, and stretched into the 1990s.

Young was the ultimate professional, combining a painstaking perfectionism with a practical common sense. He was proud of his achievements, but showed the modesty of someone who knew from long experience that film-making was a collaborative medium. He mistrusted the flashy or the elaborate, and his sometimes abrasive wit made pretension his special target. The key to his own art was a simplicity: he sought to capture the look - and mood - of real life.

Frederick Archibald Young was born in St Marylebone, London, the seventh of eight children. His family was poor and he left school at 14 to help support it. His first job was working in a munitions factory drilling the tops of hand grenades. A year later, mad about films, he got a job at Gaumont Studios. These were the pioneering days of cinema when a studio was just a glass house, and an apprentice starting out did everything - from sweeping the laboratory to developing the film, cutting it, turning the camera by hand and even driving the unit's car.

By 1928 he had risen to be chief cameraman of Herbert Wilcox's com-



Young, left, and David Lean on the set of Ryan's Daughter. At right, Spain masquerades as the Russian steppe in a scene from Dr Zhivago

pany, British and Dominions. The continuity of employment that B&D was able to offer as the country's most successful studio helped Young to develop into one of Britain's most skilful and highly paid cameramen. His down-to-earth nature was a perfect complement to Wilcox's showmanship and sometimes reckless optimism. If the opulence of B&D films often flattered their true cost, much credit was due to Young's technical excellence and inventive thrift. The partnership broke up with the war. Wilcox, who had taken Young with him to America, to make Nurse Edith Cavell (1939) for RKO, wanted to stay in Hollywood. Young wanted to return home, which he did, making an international reputation for himself without the assistance of Tinseltown.

After photographing 49th Parallel for Powell and Pressburger in 1941, he spent the rest of the war as a captain in the Army Kinematograph Service, where he directed as well as photographed many

army training films. With the return of peace he became chief cameraman of MGM-British, over the next decade and a half, working with such top Hollywood directors as John Ford, King Vidor and George Cukor.

Young did much to encourage the development of cinematography and to raise the standards of the industry as a whole. In 1949 he became a founding member of the British Society of Cinematographers, and was president for its first three years. He also, in collaboration with P. Perold, wrote a standard textbook on his craft, The Work of the Motion Picture Cameraman (1972).

He left MGM in 1959 to work freelance and, at an age when many would have been looking forward to retirement, embarked on the most successful years of his career, in double harness with David Lean. The scale of Lawrence of Arabia gave him the opportunity to fashion some of the most hauntingly beautiful images in cinema history - and won him his first



Oscar at the age of 60. But of all the films that Young had made in his long career, his next collaboration with Lean, Doctor Zhivago, was his favourite. The challenge of turning Spanish locations into a wintry Russia represented the essence of cinema - creating the illusion of reality. In 1970, the year of Young's third Oscar, for Ryan's Daughter, he was appointed OBE. In 1985, aged 82, he directed his first feature film, Arthur's Hallowed Ground told the story of an elderly groundsman's devotion to his cricket pitch. "You're married to this ground," remarks

Arthur's wife in the film. It was an attitude that Freddie Young would easily have understood. He wanted to continue working as long as possible.

In retirement, he devoted himself to painting. Visitors to his home in Roshampton could not help but be impressed by the extraordinary number of canvases which crowded every wall.

Many had been painted from photographs, which he would stick to the backs of their frames, encouraging comparison to be made between the reality and his rendering of it. The restless energy with

which he pursued this hobby could only encourage the thought that it was a kind of cinematography by proxy - filming with paint, as before he had painted with light.

Later he had been working on his memoirs, and the resulting book, Seventy Light Years: A Life in Movies, is scheduled for publication by Faber and Faber in February next year.

His first wife, Marjorie, died in 1963. He is survived by his second wife Joan, their son and by two adopted children from his first marriage.

GIANT HAYSTACKS



Giant Haystacks in 1981. Though renowned for his supposed viciousness, he was a shy and religious man

Martin Ruane, the wrestler known as Giant Haystacks, died of cancer on November 29 aged 52. He was born on October 10, 1946.

INSIDE Giant Haystacks was hidden a little sheaf of gold, but he was to make his name as an entertainer in a field full of corn. For all his enormous stature and aggression in the ring, he was a shy, thoughtful and religious family man, but the public would not see it, and he was forever cast as the evil bruiser. Standing 6ft 11in and said at times to weigh up to 50 stone, Giant Haystacks dwarfed his 19 stone and 28 stone brothers, and even the other "incredible bulk", Big Daddy, with whom he achieved celebrity, though never fortune.

Martin Ruane's parents came from Co Mayo on the West Coast of Ireland, but the 14lb 6oz baby was born in Camberwell Green, London, soon after they came to England. The family then moved to Salford in Lancashire, which was to remain Ruane's home. His father was athletic, cold and hard, but Martin was always devoted to his gentle mother. His parents were both Roman Catholics, and he remained one all his life, refusing to fight on Sundays. His size made him miserable at school and had to learn to defend himself. Then, at a dance in Manchester when he was 15, he met a girl who told him that size didn't

matter and gave him confidence: they married when he was just 17.

He worked as a heavy labourer, building motorways, and then as a nightclub bouncer, before a friend suggested that he try professional wrestling. He was then 24, and no showman. At first he found the wrestling and public exposure very tough - he did not like his real name to be known, and had several pseudonyms - and he nearly gave it up after six months.

Because he had the advantage of size, and looked ferocious with his long black beard, the crowds took against him, so he took on the role of the braggart, brutish bully, the monster of the mar whom everyone could hate. It was this that enabled him not just to floor his opponents, but to tease, incite and reward his audiences. "The punters had a go at me, let off steam and went home happy," he said. He also himself let off some of his own pent-up aggression, against "wimps who pour scorn on big people".

Sometimes when the adrenaline was flowing, the show got out of hand. Haystacks first came to national prominence in 1975 when, during a fight with Big Daddy, a diminutive fan, weighing 9 stone, ill-advisedly jumped into the ring shouting at Haystacks to "fight fair" and grabbing his beard. With a quick blow he was dispatched to Halifax Royal Infirmary.

Three years later Haystacks put a referee who had disqualified him in hospital - with the

result that a picture in the local paper enabled social security officers to prosecute the referee, who had been pretending to be unemployed and claiming benefit.

Big Daddy's brother, Max Crabtree, brought Haystacks into television, through his company Joint Promotions, which held the contract for Saturday wrestling. Through the 1970s and into the 1980s, Haystacks and Big Daddy, together with other great names of the game such as Scrubber Daly, Bomber Roach, Cyanide Syd Cooper ("rotten to the core") and Jumping Jim Mosa, attracted audiences of up to 18 million for ITV's World of Sport.

The bouts were prerecorded and prearranged - Big Daddy never lost - but the damage from the notorious "splashdowns" was often real. Haystacks had both kneecaps fractured, his elbows smashed and his ribs crushed. In 1981 the wrestler Jackie Pallo denounced the whole graceless spectacle, saying that it brought the sport into disrepute. "I'd rather watch Tom and Jerry," he said. It was a fair comparison. Abroad, though, Haystacks wrestled in earnest in Germany, India and Africa. Airlines made him pay for two seats.

During the 1980s, wrestling declined in popularity, and in 1988, wanting to move upmarket, the ITV network dropped it (in favour of more highbrow entertainments such as Gladiators). Haystacks then invested unwisely in a car business, and lost his money. He also ran a debt-collection agency, and was proud to say that he had never had to use a baseball bat - not even on his former friends in the motor trade.

In 1995 he signed a deal to fight against Hulk Hogan in an attempt to start a new career in America - where he was known as the Loch Ness Monster - but soon afterwards he was diagnosed as having cancer. Recently he had been writing a television comedy about wrestling, with Tony "Banger" Walsh.

He is survived by his wife, Rita, and three sons.

JEREMY MAULE



Jeremy Maule, literary scholar and Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, died from cancer on November 25 aged 46. He was born on August 11, 1952, in Wuppertal, Germany.

LIKE some pursued and always fleeing character in Spenser's *Faerie Queen*, Jeremy Maule was a familiar name to many scholars outside Cambridge, thanks to the traces he left in manuscript archives. Obscure and little regarded tomes would often yield up his library slips as evidence that he had long since been there and departed. In Cambridge, by contrast, he was anything but fleeting, allowing himself, like a well-organised and thoroughly accessible archive, to be imported and mined by colleagues and students alike.

Jeremy Frank Maule combined a grave love of the venerable institutions of which he had been a part since early childhood with an enthusiastic personal warmth lavished on family, friends and students. As a chorister of St Paul's he sang at Churchill's funeral; from King's School, Canterbury, he went on to Christ Church, Oxford, where he took a first in Modern History. On graduation he joined the Civil Service as a Clerk in the House of Lords, where he remained for some years before returning to academic life, first at Birkbeck College for his MA and later in Oxford as a doctoral candidate in 17th-century English poetry. In 1986 he became a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

This long acquaintance with grandeur produced, no equivalent quality in him: modest, devout, often stubborn and exasperating, but full of humour, he wore his gifts lightly, and was as likely to bombard his friends with cartoons and absurd postcards as with learned references. That he is, by chance, to lie buried next to a fellow Trinitarian, the first holder of the King Edward VII chair in English, A.W. Verrall, would have amused him deeply.

His true home was in the

republic of letters. Learned in literature, theology, history, and classics, he taught, lectured and examined across all these disciplines. He was editing a volume of Andrew Marvell's prose works for Yale when he died; his most recent major publication was *The Oxford Book of Classical Verse in Translation* (1995), which he edited with Adrian Poole, in which he was responsible for the Latin element.

Although the record of his publications was only belatedly gaining a weight equal to his abilities and ambitions, he was a regular and well-known speaker on the international conference circuit and an indefatigable frequenter of libraries and record offices here and abroad, activities through which he established an enormous and attentively maintained circle of comrades in learning.

Much of his research concerned itself with what he called "life writings", intimate, personal, often devotional works which reflected his own deep humanity. His recent

projects included the editing of an important cache of verse and prose by Thomas Traherne, unearthed in Lambeth Palace Library, which was perhaps his most important discovery. He had also found and was preparing for print the *Devotions* of Susannah Hopton, and was working on Marian martyrs' confessions and the poetry of Herbert, Marvell, Crabbe and Donne.

His most eccentric find was *Mr Briggs's Visitation*, a manuscript account of conversations between the Devil and a young Middle Templar who supposed himself visited by the Grand Foe in 1574. Maule developed a kindly sympathy for Mr Briggs, rather as though he had been one of his more wayward undergraduates. If his scholarship and pedagogy were renowned, so were his cooking, his gardening, his delight in entertaining, his eccentric and witty collecting of pictures and objects, his knowledge of music (especially of the Baroque), and his love of his godchildren. He remained unmarried.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Advertisement for Personal Column services including Memoriam, For Sale, Midweek Rendezvous, Announcements, Court & Social, Gifts, Flatshare, Flights Directory, Musical Instruments, and All Tickets.

Advertisement for 'The Grass is Greener' and 'On This Day' plays, featuring Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Williams and Miss Joan Greenwood.

Advertisement for Churchill's Stairlifts, featuring a photo of a woman and text about stairlift services.

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3 1998

Arcadia slumps after untimely profit warning

By Sarah Cunningham
Retail Correspondent

A PROFIT warning from Arcadia, the group behind Dorothy Perkins, Principles, Burton Menswear and Top Shop, sent its shares plunging 26 per cent.

The timing angered analysts, who said Arcadia should have alerted the market earlier to the sharp downturn in trade it has experienced in the past six weeks. At its full-year results on October 22, Arcadia said that sales as well as sales per sq ft were up in the current financial year. Yesterday it said sales are only 0.4 per cent higher, while sales per sq ft are down 1.8 per cent.

Arcadia's brokers, CSFB, cut its current profit forecasts from £90 million to £50 million. "Arcadia must have seen what was coming. There has been a false market," one analyst said.

The warning was prompted by a cut in forecast first thing early yesterday morning from Warburg Dillon Read to £70 million, which it later changed again to £50 million. Arcadia said trade on the high street has fallen sharply in the past six weeks, while competitors have increased discounting.

John Hoerner, chief executive, said sales were suffering across all brands and throughout the country. "The North is probably a bit tougher, but it's marginal," he said. The company is running some discount promotions, particularly on party clothes, but is still scheduling its full winter sale for after Christmas. However, that could change, depending on market conditions.

Shares in Arcadia closed at 212.5p, down from 288p. Other clothing retailers were also hit, with Marks & Spencer down from 415p to 399p and Next down from 475p to 438p. GUS, the catalogue retailer, fell from 525p to 515p.

The increase in discounting by M&S in its "winter value" campaign has made the market much more difficult for its competitors. Allied Carpets, the troubled retailer, told shareholders yesterday that sales in the first 22 weeks of the year are down 8.2 per cent. Its shares fell 2p to 47.5p.

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Walter Hasselkus, left, takes his leave from Rover as Bernd Pischetsrieder, the BMW chairman, looks to the future at yesterday's press conference

Hasselkus says 'blame me' as he quits Rover

By Carl Mortished, International Business Editor

WALTER HASSELKUS, the chairman of Rover, fell on his sword as BMW, the car manufacturer's German parent, announced a ground-breaking agreement with British trade unions aimed at saving £150 million a year.

Dr Hasselkus, who is also on the management board of BMW, announced he was taking early retirement, accepting responsibility for the huge losses at Rover that have depressed the share price of BMW and laid bare embarrassing rifts among the directors of the German company.

The entire burden of Rover's disastrous sales performance was accepted by Dr Hasselkus, who said: "At the end of the day I look at myself and someone has to stand up and be counted." Dr Hasselkus is to be replaced by Werner Sämman, a BMW board member who was in charge of the engines and chassis division.

Bernd Pischetsrieder, chairman of BMW, said adverse trading conditions and the strength of the pound were the main factors behind Rover's

problems and he hinted that in future Rover would consider outsourcing components from outside the UK.

He also indicated the British Government would be expected to play a part in the recovery of Rover with financial assistance. "We have objected to grant aid in the past; it leads to unfair competition," he said, although he added that he would be discussing the matter with ministers.

BMW has secured agree-

ment with its trade unions for a new pay and working time flexibility package which will involve a four-day, 35-hour working week and a voluntary redundancy programme to reduce employment levels by 2,500 jobs. The redundancies are expected to cost the group between £70 million and £80 million depending on the level of take-up. BMW yesterday said that it had already received 3,000 enquiries.

David Bower, Rover's per-

sonnel director, said the new deal would allow Rover to build up or reduce volumes without disrupting manning levels. BMW had previously complained that productivity levels at the Longbridge plant in Birmingham were 30 per cent below those achieved in its German factories.

Tony Woodley, negotiator for the Transport and General Workers' Union, hailed the deal as the best chance to secure the future of Rover and

"the only chance to save 14,000 jobs at Longbridge and 50,000 in and around the West Midlands".

Larry Brooke, national secretary of the MSF union, said there had been serious consideration of closing Longbridge. "We believe they are entitled to look for government grant aid, and the unions will go on using their influence to secure the long-term future of Longbridge."

The plant will benefit from a £400 million investment in the new Mini, part of a £2 billion overall investment by BMW in the Rover business. However, Herr Pischetsrieder would not reveal any investment plans for the new medium-range Rover car expected to be built at Longbridge.

Analysis speculated that BMW was holding out the carrot of further investment on condition that the Government provided grant aid. One said: "They feel that Jaguar has enjoyed an unfair advantage over the Rover 75."

Commentary, page 29

Belgium's central bank tips European interest rate cuts

By Janet Bush
Economics Editor

HOPES of an imminent European rate cut intensified yesterday after the Governor of the Belgian Central Bank predicted that the European Central Bank would cut rates before the launch of the euro.

Alfons Verplaese forecast that rates would fall from the current 3.3 per cent in France and Germany to around 3 per cent. This forecast followed remarks by Wim Duisenberg, ECB President, on Tuesday that highlighted the "downside risks" to European growth and emphasised worries about a decline in business confidence.

Worries about corporate profits hit shares on both sides of the Atlantic yesterday. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average took another pounding, quoted 168.63 points lower in early afternoon trading at 8,964.91. The mood, which has seen shares lose 4 per cent of their value in the past week, took a knock from a gloomy earnings forecast and the announcement of large job losses by Boeing.

In London, the FTSE 100 index proved relatively resilient, closing only 30.3 points lower at 5,507.2. On the Continent, however, German and French stocks both fell by more than 1 per cent despite renewed hopes on monetary policy.

European analysts were openly surprised by what appeared to be the beginnings of a volte face by the ECB president who, as recently as September, boasted that Europe would be an "oasis of tranquility" in the world economy and has repeatedly dismissed calls for a cut in European rates.

Some ECB-watchers believe that a consensus within the central bank may now be building in favour of a rate cut to be announced possibly on December 22, the last news conference before the single currency is launched.

There has been mounting speculation that France has been pushing for a rate cut amid concern that, in its first few months, the euro may be prohibitively strong, particularly against the dollar. A sharp decline in the dollar, as the US current account deficit widens in the months ahead, is being predicted and the euro may be a beneficiary of outflows out of the US currency. The dollar yesterday slumped to a two-week low against the mark of DM1.6685, undermining confidence on Wall Street.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5507.2	(-30.3)
Nikkei	2,957.0	(-12.61)
Dax	1,488.82	(+151.21)
New York Dow Jones	8982.97	(-140.57)
S&P Composite	1162.27	(-13.01)

US RATE

Federal Funds	6.5%	(4.75%)
Long bond	10.2%	(10.4)
Yield	5.01%	(5.05%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	6%	(6.75%)
6-mth interbank	6.5%	(7.25%)
Libor (3m)	117.45	(117.42)

STERLING

New York	1.6615	(1.6540)
London	1.6610	(1.6527)
DM	2.7788	(2.7722)
FF	5.3184	(5.2982)
SFR	2.2707	(2.2723)
Yen	200.17	(201.20)
E index	100.2	(100.0)

US DOLLAR

London	1.5725	(1.5836)
DM	5.6075	(5.6460)
FF	1.3703	(1.3620)
SFR	123.20	(122.08)
Yen	106.1	(106.6)

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$10.50	(\$10.60)
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GOLD

London close	\$293.95	(\$294.10)
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* denotes midday trading prices

Bankers' bonuses are safe

FROM OLIVER AUGUST
IN NEW YORK

THE 2,400 UK employees of Bankers Trust have been assured that this year's lavish bonuses will not be cut in the aftermath of the \$9.5 billion takeover by Deutsche Bank, which operates a more austere pay regime.

Frank Newman, the executive chairman who will join Deutsche's board, said in a memo: "Until the merger closes, Bankers Trust will continue to operate independently and bonuses and promotions for 1998 will be approved in our normal process."

Deutsche and Bankers Trust will cut 5,500 jobs in an attempt to save \$1 billion per annum after combining their operations in London and New York.

Mr Newman's pledge not to touch this year's pay levels is unrelated to the \$400 million in "retention money" set aside by the two banks to keep key employees at the bank.

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Hornby takes oriental express

By Fraser Nelson

HORNBY, the model railways company born in a Liverpool garage 64 years ago, has moved all of its replica train production to China in an attempt to defend itself against the soaring pound.

Hornby, the last model train maker in Britain, is moving its production line to the Guangdong province of southern China, even though almost every model will be shipped back to the UK. Peter Newey, chairman, said the

move to China should head off competition, especially from Bachmann, a US company that sells a rival range of replica engines and rolling stock.

He said: "The labour costs are much lower in China, so you can afford to have workers spending more time over each locomotive."

The shares fell 20 per cent to 147.5p as Hornby gave warning that the strength of sterling had sent its half-year profits down 56 per cent to £425,000. The company said that its model racing car

Scalextric sets will continue to be made in Kent. Mr Newey added: "The strength of sterling got beyond a joke last year."

Beames, the model railway retail chain, said that Hornby had long lost its reputation as the best-quality model railway producer to the likes of Fleischmann, the German group.

Hornby's earnings dropped to 3.48p (7.99p) per share for the six months to October 3, and the interim dividend is frozen at 2p.



Scalextric will still be made in Kent

Mandelson pay vote call

By Matthew Barbour

PETER MANDELSON, the Trade and Industry Secretary, yesterday called on companies to put directors' pay before an annual shareholder vote in order to curb boardroom excesses. In what was described as a "frank and helpful" meeting with institutional investors, Mr Mandelson urged them to use their powers to lean on UK

companies to improve pay procedures.

Anne Simpson, a director at Pension Investment Research Consultants (PIRC), said: "It is a welcome and necessary move, addressing what is a huge political time bomb."

Mr Mandelson said he believed performance and pay should be more closely linked and bonus targets should be "challenging". Mr Mandelson

also called for more money to be invested in venture capital projects.

Ms Simpson compared Mr Mandelson's comments with those held between Helen Liddell at the Financial Services Authority and insurance companies before the "name and shame" policy was introduced.

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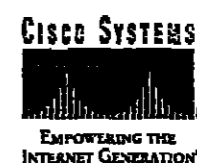


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Lock-in mortgages top watchdog's workload

BY RICHARD MILES
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HIGH redemption penalties on lock-in mortgages were one of the biggest sources of complaint to the banking ombudsman in the past year.

In the ombudsman's annual report, published today, complaints by the public jumped 35 per cent to nearly 12,000, largely reflecting the first-time inclusion of five former building societies within the scheme.

Compensation of more than £1.3

million was paid out to 631 bank customers. The highest award was £55,000, though the average payout came in at £2,114, slightly down on last year. The maximum award under the scheme is £100,000.

David Thomas, the ombudsman, said complaints about the sale of endowment mortgages without an endowment policy had virtually dried up, but a significant number of complaints related to loans with lock-ins and high redemption penalties.

In many cases, borrowers said they

were unaware of the penalties — sometimes as much as six months' interest — for the redemption of mortgages in the three years after, say, a two-year fixed-rate loan.

Mr Thomas urged lenders to give equal weight in their advertising to the penalties and lock-in periods as they do to the special interest rate.

"The publicity material of some lenders does give an even handed description. If all lenders did this, many complaints would not arise," he said. Cheques remain a considerable

source of friction. Mr Thomas said banks and their customers often spoke a different language, with most confusion arising over the term "cleared".

When accountholders ask whether a cheque has cleared, to most this means: "will it bounce?" But Mr Thomas said: "Strangely, some bankers do not understand that customers use cleared in this way."

As he explains in his report, "cleared for funds" means the money is taken into account when calculating

interest, but there is still some chance the cheque may bounce. "Cleared for funds" means that it is unlikely to bounce, but there is still that possibility.

The banking ombudsman scheme will shortly be swallowed up by a larger complaints body under the Financial Services Authority.

Directors of the so-called super-ombudsman's scheme are expected to be named later this month, but the body will not receive its statutory powers until mid-2000 at the earliest.

Troubled Boeing to cut another 20,000 jobs

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

BOEING shares fell 22 per cent after an announcement yesterday that the world's biggest aerospace group will cut a further 20,000 jobs in the face of worsening economic problems.

Phil Condit, the chairman, told analysts that the group would take longer than expected to rebound from last year's production shutdown and the loss of Asian orders. He gave

warning that Boeing could fall 25 per cent short of its earlier profit forecast of \$2 billion for next year.

Strong competition from Airbus, the European joint venture that includes British Aerospace, has driven down profit margins in the civil aircraft business that was once dominated by Boeing.

The group's operating margins were greater than 10 per cent at the beginning of the decade. However operating margins have now fallen far below that level — to as little as between 1 per cent and 3 per cent — as Boeing and Airbus battle for market share.



Michael McLintock, chief executive, who claimed that M&G's investment performance proved it had turned the corner

M&G 'turning the corner'

BY ROBERT COLE
CITY CORRESPONDENT

M&G, the fund management group, reduced capital outflows from its business in the year to September 30. However, there was still a net outflow of £111 million. This compares with a net outflow of £220 million last year. Michael McLintock, the chief executive, said M&G's improved investment performance record meant that it was turning the corner.

A sustained period of underperformance had prompted change at the group, one of Britain's best-known unit trust managers. The product range has been re-

vised to incorporate a wider range on investment styles.

He said consumer interest in a high yield bond fund, launched just after the end of the financial year, underlined the renewed strength of the business. The fund raised £70 million which Mr McLintock said made it the most successful unit trust launch of the year.

M&G highlighted improved performance by pointing to the group's weighted average performance against its peers. It showed that M&G's table position had improved from 40th — out of 40 — to 15th.

The value of M&G's funds under management fell from £18.1 billion to £16.8 bil-

lion by the end of its financial year, but this was largely a result of falling stock market values. The rally in equity market pushed M&G's funds under management back to £18.4 billion by November 24.

Revenues in the year benefited from better income from annual management charges levied on client investors. The yield was improved in spite of the fact that funds under management reduced because for much of the year funds were greater than the previous year. Revenues rose 8 per cent to £164 million. The full-year dividend is 4p higher at 46p.

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News Corp explores Italian options

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

EXECUTIVES of The News Corporation still hope to enter the Italian pay-television market even though the original deal with Telecom Italia may not go ahead.

News Corp said it had been approached by other possible partners interested in a venture to launch satellite TV in Italy.

Last week Rupert Murdoch, chairman and chief executive of News Corp, parent company of The Times, said he was in advanced discussions on a pay-TV deal in which Telecom Italia would have 51 per cent, News Corp 39 per cent and TF-1 of France 10 per cent. It came as he announced the creation of News Corp Europe to invest in new TV ventures.

On the same day Franco Bernabe began as chief executive of Telecom Italia and began to examine the papers on the deal.

It is believed that he has reservations about the telecom group's investment in the TV market. Though the original deal is unlikely to go ahead, talks are continuing on possibilities that would reduce Telecom Italia's financial exposure. One option being discussed last night would see the News Corp stake rise to 49 per cent combined with management control.

Another option is that the Italian group will quit TV entirely. If so, Stream, its cable and satellite TV subsidiary, could come on the market and become a vehicle for News Corp's intention of launching in Italy and bidding for the football rights at the heart of any entry into the Italian market.

Splits emerge in Newcastle board

BY JASON NISSE

FURTHER splits in the board of Newcastle United, the quoted football club, emerged yesterday with the revelation that the chief executive, finance director and development director all supported moves to re-elect the two disgraced directors, Douglas Hall and Freddy Shepherd.

The attempts to bring back the duo, who resigned after making embarrassing remarks in a Spanish brothel, have been put forward by Cameron Hall Developments, the Hall family company that owns 57 per cent of the club's shares, but been opposed by Denis Cassidy, Newcastle's chairman.

Mr Cassidy gained assur-

ances in July from the Hall family that by appointing two directors, John Fender and Tom Fenton, to represent the majority shareholders' interest, there would be "no reason to disturb this arrangement at the present time".

When Cameron Hall said it wanted to vote against the re-election of Mr Fender and Mr Fenton and proposed Mr Hall and Mr Shepherd instead, the board was split.

Freddy Fletcher, the chief executive, Les Wheatley, the finance director and Russell Jones, the development director supported Cameron Hall, while Mr Cassidy and the three non-executives opposed them.

Deutsche pays £360m for CLB

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

DEUTSCHE BANK followed up this week's £6 billion takeover of Bankers Trust of America, with the £360 million purchase of Credit Lyonnais Belgium (CLB) yesterday.

Deutsche Bank is acquiring Belgium's sixth-largest bank from France's troubled Credit Lyonnais. The transaction is expected to be completed in the first quarter of next year, soon after the introduction of the European single currency.

Deutsche Bank will merge its own Belgian business with CLB, which has 38 branches, 950 staff, more than 186,000 customers and a balance sheet total of £8.67 billion.

The Belgian bank is one of several subsidiaries that state-owned Credit Lyonnais was obliged to sell in return for European Union approval of past state aid. Credit Lyonnais Belgium will be renamed Deutsche Bank but will retain its present management.

Deutsche Bank, whose takeover of Bankers Trust made it the world's largest bank in terms of assets, reportedly had to compete for the Belgian business of Credit Lyonnais with Dresdner Bank, Germany's third-largest bank.

Dresdner has also said that it plans eurozone acquisitions. The group has gaps in its coverage of Belgium, The Netherlands and Austria.

RPC GROUP, the packaging company that developed the new mini Polo pack, yesterday announced increased sales for the six months to September 30. Turnover was up from £120 million last time to £133.3 million, helped by acquisitions, with pre-tax profits of £8.99 million (£7.57 million). Earnings were up to 8p a share (6.5p), and the interim dividend was 1.65p (1.5p). Lindsay Mackinlay, chairman, expects further progress arising from the group's broad geographical base.

Cash offer values Crest at £16m

THE management of Crest Packaging has become the latest among smaller companies to lose patience with stock market valuations. Angley Holdings, a company set up by Rodney Webb, the deputy chairman, yesterday made a cash offer of 41p. The share for Crest, valued at the 20p level that the shares reached after a possible management buyout was announced. The shares have fallen from a high of 90p in June 1997.

Directors holding 65.7 per cent of Crest's issued share capital have accepted the bid but any acceptance is conditional on no higher bid being made in the interim. Mr Webb led the management buyout of Crest in 1985 and he holds 56.2 per cent of the shares. He and his family interests made £12.2 million from selling shares at the time of Crest's flotation in 1993. Shares in Crest closed up 14p at 40p.

Photobition buys Katz

PHOTOBITION GROUP, the media services company, has completed the acquisition of Katz Digital for \$47 million (£28 million) in cash. Katz, based in New York, is a digital graphics company and provides the same graphic display services as Photobition in the UK. For the six months to June 30, Katz reported pre-tax profit of \$1.9 million, on sales of \$22.1 million. Photobition expects the acquisition to enhance earnings in the first year. It said Katz would market Photobition's digital products in the US and cost savings would be achieved by merging the companies' New York sites.

Swiss blow the whistle

A NEW law forcing Switzerland's secretive banks to report shady clients has led to a boom in tip-offs to the authorities and the freezing of SwFr277 million (about £122 million) in dubious wealth. The toughened law against money-laundering, which went into force on April 1, extended the reporting obligation to fund managers, insurance firms, foreign exchange bureaux and lawyers. The law triggered 108 tip-offs in its first eight months. The number could reach 160 in the first year — five times more than under the old system.

Babcock disposals

YORKSHIRE WATER and Babcock International, the engineering company, have sold Babcock Water Engineering, their joint venture company, to Earth Tech for £23.5 million. They will each receive £11.75 million from the sale of the company, which reported a £3.1 million pre-tax profit for the year to March 31. Babcock International also announced the sale of its wholly owned subsidiary, Babcock Water Engineering LP, for £1.45 million, also to Earth Tech.

Concern at MEB deal

THE electricity regulator has expressed reservations about the proposed £180 million acquisition by National Power of the supply business of Midlands Electricity (MEB). Stephen Littlechild, who yesterday issued a consultation document on the deal, said that it should be considered against a backdrop of concern about the big generators' market power and the prospect that the acquisition of MEB's supply business will make National Power the dominant supplier to smaller customers in MEB's area.

Tiger bitten by Nikkei

TIGER MANAGEMENT, the hedge fund run by Julian Robertson and advised by Baroness Thatcher, lost 3 per cent of its net assets in November, or about \$500 million (£301 million). Tiger lost money betting that Japanese shares would fall, while some of its US stocks performed worse than the market. So far this year, Mr Robertson's group of funds has lost 4 per cent of net assets, which now stand at about \$16.5 billion. Tiger was up 33 per cent at the end of August. (Bloomberg)

Sales climb at RPC

RPC GROUP, the packaging company that developed the new mini Polo pack, yesterday announced increased sales for the six months to September 30. Turnover was up from £120 million last time to £133.3 million, helped by acquisitions, with pre-tax profits of £8.99 million (£7.57 million). Earnings were up to 8p a share (6.5p), and the interim dividend was 1.65p (1.5p). Lindsay Mackinlay, chairman, expects further progress arising from the group's broad geographical base.

Cornerstone acquisition

CORNERSTONE Construction and Materials, a subsidiary of Hanson, the building materials group, has acquired Nelson & Sloan for \$37.3 million (£22.6 million) in cash. Nelson & Sloan, based in San Diego, California, is an aggregates and ready-mix concrete producer. Integration into Cornerstone's California operations is expected to produce \$3 million in savings. In the year to May 31, Nelson & Sloan had sales of \$47 million and operating profits of \$1.7 million.

Camelot prepares to fight for lottery licence

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

CAMELOT, operator of the National Lottery, is prepared to hold on to ownership of its national network and associated software if the company loses its lottery licence.

The hardening approach by the company, whose shareholders range from Cadbury

Schweppes, Racal and De La Rue, is an indication of the coming battle over the renewal of the National Lottery licence. Camelot has just begun the fifth year of its seven-year licence to operate the National Lottery and is concerned that it is given what it sees as a fair chance to reapply for the licence. The Government has decided that it wants to run a

"not-for-profit" lottery in future but has yet to say how that would work in practice or what the terms will be for the award of a new seven-year licence.

Under lottery legislation Camelot would be required to sell the lottery terminals in shops up and down the land to a new licensee if it failed to get a renewal. But Camelot believes that it has the right to re-

tain the communications network and associated software. Much will depend on whether Camelot is allowed to take its existing investment into account when bidding for a new licence. The company is waiting to see whether it has to bid against potential rivals with a "blank sheet of paper".

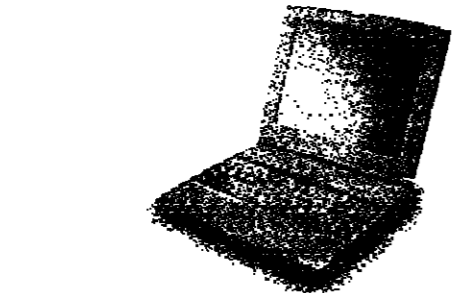
If Camelot is allowed to bid with the costs of setting up its

network essentially amortised it would be able to offer an improved deal for the "good causes" that benefit from the National Lottery.

The issue could be further complicated by the age of the existing National Lottery technology. Camelot may decide that it all needs modernising anyway at the end of a seven-year licence.

Bank	Buy	Sell	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	20.60	19.54	Japan Yen	215.44	187.50
Belgium Fr	69.94	59.86	Malta	0.863	0.804
Canada \$	2.571	2.463	Netherlands Gld	3.297	3.005
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8990	0.7975	Norway Kr	12.39	12.02
Denmark Kr	11.18	10.29	Portugal Esc	208.21	276.18
Egypt	5.87	5.26	S Africa Rnd	10.05	9.09
Finland Mk	9.02	8.25	Spain Ptas	248.48	228.69
France Fr	6.81	6.25	Sweden Kr	14.23	13.11
Germany Dm	2.348	2.708	Switzerland Fr	2.433	2.217
Greece Dr	494	455	Taiwan Nts	50.225	49.933
Hong Kong \$	13.89	12.9	USA	1.787	1.624
Iceland	1.28	1.08			
Indonesia	163.49	114.48			
Ireland P	1.1748	1.0868			
Israel Sh	7.26	6.80			
Italy Lit	2052	2055			

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



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Calling the tune to overpaid pipers



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Those scribes who pen the mission statements that are now *de rigueur* for British businesses should prepare for a new challenge. Peter Mandelson likes the idea of making it obligatory for companies to put their remuneration policy to an annual shareholder vote.

Well, the chairman of the remuneration committee may not be keen to stand up and announce that chairman Bloggs may be non-executive but he has a penchant for fine wine and won't get out of bed for under £200,000 a year. He might anticipate a frisson of shareholder discontent if he revealed that the company an instant chief executive and the only candidate able to drop everything and leap into said hole demanded an eye-watering package that doubled his former salary and threw in a collection of perks that would make PIRC apoplectic.

No, the chairman of the remuneration committee is likely to have a stack of reports from consultants to justify the company's pay scales. There will be comparative figures from around the world and reams of details on elaborate performance-related bonuses. Far from being lavish, the company's remuneration policy will turn out to be less than generous. On certain gauges, the directors even languish in the bottom quartile compared with

their peers. But we run a tight ship here, all in the interests of enhancing shareholder value.

But, far from seeing their investment enhanced, shareholders risk being conned twice, since they will be footing the bill for the justification as well as the filling of the fat cat bowls.

Far better that shareholders should be given the chance to vote annually on the re-election of their directors. If pay and performance then seemed out of sync, the remedy would be clear. Shareholders own the company and they delegate the running of it to their directors. When they try to run the business, they venture into difficult territory.

Mr. Mandelson's suggestion would take the institutions that own the bulk of British industry further in that direction. But the representatives of the fund management business who met him yesterday could find few quibbles with his overall theme that improved corporate performance had to be the aim. They were also relieved at his tone, which eschewed the hectoring over pay and productivity that tends to emanate from certain of his Cabinet colleagues.

So they were polite when he

suggested that the investment business should put more into venture capital. They probably did not point out that last year members of the British Venture Capital Association raised £6.5 billion but could only find homes for £4.2 billion.

The shortage is not of funds but of projects in which to invest them. Even the riskiest biotech company seems able to persuade someone to put up the cash.

Nightmare on High Street

Arcadia is about to open at the Comedie Francaise. Back home, Arcadia is no laughing matter. Playwright Tom Stoppard was playing with ideas of time and perception in his play; the resulting confusion is currently being felt back in the West End of London, where those at Arcadia HQ confess to being baffled by the way custom-

ers are behaving. The company is not being singled out for a spending boycott, although the stock market's reaction to its profit warning indicates that some had thought that John Hoerner and his team might be immune. Alas, Nightmare on High Street is now playing across the land and none seem safe.

We will hear today how badly GUS is faring in this dismal climate. Lord Wolfson is likely to blame Argos for a disappointing set of figures, but however much he resents having paid over-generously for the business, it will win him no brownie points to continue his moaning. It will not distract attention from the performance of the GUS catalogues, which are said to be suffering. So is the Next Directory; home shoppers have become as stingy as those who venture out.

What retailers are striving to understand is just why customers have withdrawn their business. The surveys show that con-

stores is the nagging belief that the Government and the media may be turning customers against them. Allegations of profiteering have become commonplace. The Government's reward for attacking UK prices looks likely to be a dramatic fall in VAT revenue.

It may be that consumers are as sceptical of Gordon Brown's forecasts of 1 per cent growth next year as most of industry. But there do appear to be other factors at work. First, the bargain-hunting instinct has come into play. Arcadia had desperately tried to wean customers away from the mark-down culture that decimates margins.

That effort has been beaten by the discounting habits of others, ranging from House of Fraser and M&S to the chains that pride themselves on price cuts. There is now a battle of wits between shoppers and the stores over whether they can be forced into launching their traditional end-of-the-year sale before Christmas.

Even more worrying for the

confidence is not high, but even those who have been behind the till through previous recessions claim that they have not seen a downturn as sharp as that of the past few weeks.

A shame to lose Lloyd's names

The result of the vote at last night's Lloyd's egn will not be known until this morning. But it seems certain that traditionalist names have failed in their attempt to stall change to the way the world-renowned insurance market operates. In truth they did not have a leg to stand on. By trying to reverse changes that give representation on Lloyd's ruling Council in proportion to weight of capital backing, the traditionalists were working against the logic of shareholder democracy.

It is important to note that the opponents of change do not represent all names. The Association of Lloyd's Members, for example, did not object. The ascendant corporate members of Lloyd's

would also be foolish to try to use this rather silly issue to brush names aside.

The time may come when Lloyd's is entirely backed by corporate capital. But the controllers of that capital must find ways to adopt at least some of the behavioural uniqueness of individual capital. Individual capital backers are more loyal, and more willing to write ground-breaking and unusual insurance business. These are among the things that make Lloyd's different and have ensured its survival for so long.

Names may pass into history. It would be better if ways could be found to allow names to co-exist alongside corporate capital. But unless the unique qualities of the name persist, Lloyd's long-term fortunes will be bleak.

Lording it

WALTER HASSELKUS has done the unthinkable. His mea culpa decision to hand over Rover to someone who might make a better job of it does not conform to the rules. But his departure highlights the problems that were still inherent in Rover despite the fact that it was once regarded as a triumphant turnaround by one George Simpson. He went on to not turn round Lucas but sell it to Vario. Now he is Lord Simpson of Dunkeld and running the mighty GEC. Dr Hasselkus may be puzzled.

Marley ready to accept £365m offer from Etex

By FRASER NELSON

MARLEY, the embattled building materials group, hopes to escape the £270 million hostile bid from John Mansfield Group by agreeing to a £365 million counteroffer from Etex, its Belgian rival.

David Trapnell, chief executive, stands to make £317,000 from accepting Etex's cash bid which was thrashed out over the weekend.

John Mansfield, a £16 million timber company, is expected to admit defeat soon. It was relying on Bryan Myerson and Julian Tregear's Active Value fund to finance its all-share deal — and the two entrepreneurs are not expected to trump Etex's offer.

Mr Trapnell said that Marley and Etex had been working on a merger long before John Mansfield's surprise bid on Thursday last week.

He said: "I joke that we've been in talks with Etex for the past 30 years. The discussions

had become serious before Mansfield's bid, and we have just accelerated what was already in place. Things really were that close."

Mr Trapnell emphasised that these takeover discussions had not begun by October 14, when he bought £10,600 of Marley shares at 70p apiece. Etex is offering 125p in cash for each share.

The month before, Mr Trapnell bought £9,180 of shares at 76p, while Tony Alexander, chairman, had bought £21,800 at 77p, and Chris Beenhann, finance director, spent £18,700 on shares at 82p. The three men stand to make a £29,400 profit on a £60,300 investment.

Under insider trading rules, none of them would have been able to buy if they had known that cash takeover talks were imminent.

By close of trading, Etex said it had built up a 20 per

cent stake in Marley. This haul does not include the 17.8 per cent stake held by PDFM, which had supported Mansfield's bid and promised to pay its £1.5 million costs if a higher bid emerged. It will now take a 7 per cent stake in Mansfield.

Etex will preserve Marley's structure as a combination of plastic, concrete and clay businesses. Mansfield had proposed stripping the company down to plastics alone.

Mr Trapnell and Mr Beenhann intend to retire within the next few months.

Etex is privately owned, and sells a broad range of building supply materials across Europe. In 1997 it made profits of about £135 million — more than double the £54 million made by Marley. Only 9.7 per cent of its sales come from the UK, mainly through Eternit plastic gutting.

Tempus, page 30

MEPC prepares for tough year ahead

By RICHARD MILES

MEPC, the property group, gave warning that 1999 is likely to be tough for the UK commercial property market as it reported profits that were effectively flat before gains from asset disposals.

The company said the expected slowdown in the economy would have an adverse effect on occupier demand, while on the investment front there was already evidence of a decline in property transactions. James Tuckey, chief executive, said MEPC was well placed if Britain slipped into recession:

it has sold overseas assets, changed senior management and repaid debt.

Pre-tax profits were £206 million, but after stripping out £64 million in gains from disposals, earnings were slightly lower than last year at £142 million. A final dividend of 8p takes the total to 12p (20p). However, shareholders were given advance notice of the dividend cut when MEPC repatriated £400 million in surplus cash earlier in the year.

Tempus, page 30

New Dawn resorts to share buyback

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

ABERDEEN NEW DAWN, a Far East investment trust that has been battered by the economic crisis in the region, has bowed to shareholder pressure and pledged to buy back up to half of its shares next year.

The radical proposal — aimed at reducing the substantial discount at which New Dawn shares have been trading — could signal the start of an exodus from Far East investment trusts.

Far East trusts have seen their

shares halve on average in the past year. General International trusts, whose shares have not suffered as badly, are expected to lose as much as £1.2 billion next year under earlier but less dramatic buyback schemes.

Aberdeen New Dawn, which has £55 million of assets, is proposing to tender for the shares at the end of March. It plans to offer a price at a 9.9 per cent discount to the shares' net asset value, less than half the level of the discount in recent months.

Greene King lifts dividend

By DOMINIC WALSH

GREENE KING, the Suffolk brewer and pub operator, yesterday lifted its interim dividend by 10 per cent after reporting a 7 per cent rise in underlying profits.

Tim Bridge, chief executive, admitted that current trading was "quite volatile", but said the rise in the dividend to 5.85p (5.30p) reflected confidence in the firm's future as a vertically integrated brewer.

Profits before tax and exceptional items reached £20.5 million (£19.1 million) in the 24 weeks to October 17, while adjusted earnings per share rose 8 per cent to 25.7p. Turnover was 2 per cent higher at £134.5 million despite last year's £25 million of asset sales.

While Greene King is seen as a possible white knight for Marston's (see story below), David McCall, chairman, would only say: "We're watching the situation with interest."

Tempus, page 30



Michael Shallow, finance director, left, and Tim Bridge

Marston's offers cash to stave off W&DB bid

By DOMINIC WALSH

MARSTON Thompson & Evershed yesterday upped the ante in its efforts to escape the clutches of Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries by offering to return a total of £101 million to shareholders.

In a letter, Marston's pledged to return 110p per share in cash provided its plan to sell its tenanted estate for £177 million in a securitisation deal is given the green light at next week's special shareholder meeting. It had originally planned to pay out £60 million, but has raised the figure in an effort to push

the securitisation through. Wednesday's meeting is crucial to its bid for independence, as W&DB has stated that its £262 million offer is conditional upon the disposal of the 569 pubs not going through.

Michael Hurdle, chairman of Marston's, told shareholders that W&DB's offer was "an attempt to grasp your company at a cheap price using shares in a company with a stretched balance sheet".

But in a tacit admission that it might consider a higher offer from a white knight, he said the company was "sup-

portive of industry consolidation if it secures proper value for our shareholders".

W&DB is offering 282p a share, of which 132p is in cash and the rest in shares. But Mr Hurdle revealed that W&DB had offered "an even more deplorable" 270p a share when it approached the company last month. Marston's share price, up 1/2p to 297p, suggests the City expects that W&DB will have to raise its offer.

Meanwhile the Stock Exchange is investigating the jump in Marston's share price ahead of the approach.

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Speculation generates support for ScotPower

AMERICAN buyers are generating plenty of support for ScottishPower.

It was one of the best performers among the top 100 companies yesterday, climbing 23 1/2p, or almost 4 per cent, to 657p in heavy trading that saw 4.2m handshakes change hands.

One suggested that the power generator was close to disposing of part of its 90 per cent stake in Scottish Telecom, valued at more than £1 billion.

Another story suggested a full bid for the company from the US, but the Americans may have had their fill of bidding for British utilities.

More likely is the partial flotation, or disposal of its Demon Internet subsidiary. The ratings of Internet providers have been going through the roof in the US and ScottishPower may have decided to jump on the bandwagon.

Hopes that the rest of the equity market would claw its way back from Tuesday's sharp falls proved short-lived. Indications that Wall Street would again suffer a sell-off when trading resumed after its overnight break proved correct.

The FTSE 100 index, up almost 30 points during the first hour of trading, saw those early gains reversed. The index closed 30.3 down at 5,507.2, stretching the loss during the past two days to 230 points. The FTSE 250 index shed 17.0 at 4,804.4 as the total number of shares traded topped more than 1.1 billion.

The profits warning from Boeing, which is to shed 20,000 jobs and cut production, left its mark on British engineers. British Aerospace fell 20 1/2p to 477 1/2p, while Rolls-Royce shed 5p at 235p.

Great Universal Stores suffered the biggest fall among the top 100 companies with the price ending 5 1/2p down at 57 1/2p ahead of results later today. Dealers said the situation was made worse by the profits warning from Arcadia.

Bass gained 3p to 81 1/2p ahead of today's final results. Despite generally positive forecasts from analysts, there is



Daniel Harris, left, and Andrew Rose, finance director, saw Alba shares rise after unveiling solid profit growth

speculation that current trading in its recently acquired Inter-Continental Hotels chain is missing projections.

BAT Industries retreated 12 1/2p to 57 1/2p after Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the US securities house, cut its recommendation from "strong buy" to "outperform". It has also reduced its rating for Imperial Group, 12p higher at 62 1/2p, and

Gallaher, 6p easier at 41 1/2p, from "outperform" to "neutral". City speculators have waited years for a takeover approach for Marley and then two come along within the space of a week.

The shares responded with a rise of 17 1/2p at 123p. Elec, the Belgian building materials group, has made an agreed bid worth 125p a share, valuing the tile manu-

facturer at £364 million. It tops an offer made last week by John Mansfield, down 1/2p at 6 1/2p, worth 97 1/2p.

Trading conditions get worse at Allied Carpets, down 2p at 47 1/2p. On October 28 it announced that like-for-like sales had fallen 7.5 per cent in the first 17 weeks. The fall had grown to 8.2 per cent by 22 weeks.

Alfa was rewarded for a solid increase in first-half profits with a rise of 3 1/2p at 181p. The group, whose chief executive is Daniel Harris and which supplies electronic consumer products, is upbeat about second-half trading.

Superscape VR stood out with a rise of 15p to 152 1/2p after a meeting with brokers. The group was reckoned to be upbeat about current trading.

News that its chief executive had been involved in a car crash in Australia has depressed shares of Royal Doulton, down 1 1/2p at 82p, in recent weeks. The price has fallen from a peak of 226p this year, making the chinaware group vulnerable.

Word is a bid could be on the way from Villeroy & Boch, the Swiss chinaware producer.

Flintbury, the model railway maker, hit the buffers with a fall of 37 1/2p at 147 1/2p. A profits warning also left Sentry Farming 20 1/2p off at 43 1/2p. Profit warnings also took a toll of ISA International, down 7p at 33p, and Meristem, 6 1/2p off at 36 1/2p.

Disappointing trading updates left Optoplast 15p cheaper at 85p and Hidden Hearing 14p lower at 117 1/2p. Yet another company is planning to go private. Crest Packaging firmed 1 1/2p at 40p after Rodney Webb, deputy chairman, made an agreed £16.4 million offer for the company.

GILT-EDGED: Bond prices recovered their poise after an early markdown. But trading conditions generally proved thin. The ultra long end of the market experienced a late sell-off, leaving prices 5p lower on the day.

In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt rose 3p to £117.45 as 26,000 contracts were completed. In longs Treasury 8 per cent 2021 dropped 45p to £148.35, while at the shorter end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 13p dearer at £106.80.

NEW YORK: Shares were lower in morning trading. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 140.57 down at 8,992.97, with Boeing accounting for 25 points of the decline.



THE profits warning from Arcadia Group, down 75p to 212 1/2p, has heaped more misery on the hapless retail sector.

Five weeks ago the company told brokers that sales were up to expectations. Now they have begun to slow while competitive pressures are growing.

Isabelle Payet at Sutherlands, the broker, says the situation is getting worse. "The Christmas bonus is likely to be cancelled this year for some retailers."

Verdict research claims this could be the worst Christmas for retailers in two decades.

"We anticipate a repeat of the previous two years' scenario of a late Christmas followed by a more buoyant January sales period."

The reluctance of shoppers to open their wallets has already forced retailers to cut prices aggressively.

But there is still value. Top of her shopping list are companies like Kingfisher, down 5 1/2p to 545p, Boots, 34p off at 940p and Selfridges 1/2p lighter at 219p.

5.00 AM

New York (midday): Dow Jones 8921.97 (+140.57) S&P Composite 1162.27 (+13.01)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 14986.62 (+151.21) Hang Seng 10555.78 (+79.93)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 1027.88 (+21.85) Sydney: ASX 2761.0 (+25.39)

Frankfurt: DAX 4691.58 (+90.04) Brussels: C2X 3222.39 (+20.54)

Paris: CAC-40 36493.91 (+38.43) Zurich: SMI 1298.20 (+3.30)

S&P 500: 2761.0 (+25.39) FTSE 100: 5507.2 (+30.3)

FTSE 250: 4804.4 (-17.0) FTSE 350: 2619.0 (-13.6)

FTSE Europe 100: 2534.58 (-29.94) FTSE All-Share: 2530.89 (-12.61)

FTSE 100 Futures: 5510.0 (+1.0) FTSE 250 Futures: 4810.0 (+0.5)

FTSE 350 Futures: 2620.0 (+0.5) Bank on English office close (4pm)

1.0204 L2SD 164.5 Oct (3.1%) Jan 1997-190 161.5 Oct (2.5%) Jan 1997-100

Table with 2 columns: Stock Name and Price/Change. Includes 2nd St Devs New Inc, Charcoal, Collective Assets Trust, etc.

Albermarle Pop Inc n/p (3) 4, Boustany Pub n/p (145) 3, LP n/p (7) 14, PPL Therapeutics n/p (80) 20

RISERS: Stock, Close, Chng, Div/y. Includes Cortes, Flax, etc.

FALLS: Stock, Close, Chng, Div/y. Includes Sanly Farm, Arcadia Group, etc.

Long Gilt, German Govt Bond, Five Year Gilt, Italian Govt Bond, Japanese Govt Bond

Three Mth Sterling, Three Mth Euroswap, Three Mth Euro, Three Mth Euro, Three Mth Euro

Base Rates: Calling Rate 6%, France House 7%, Discount Market Loans (Night High) 7%, Treasury Bills (14y) 2 mth 6%, 3 mth 6%, 6 mth 6%

Prime Bank Bills (14y): 1 mth 6 1/4%, 2 mth 6 1/4%, 3 mth 6 1/4%, 6 mth 6 1/4%, 12 mth 6 1/4%

Local Authority Depots, Building Society CDs, Currency: 7 day, 1 mth, 3 mth, 6 mth, Call

Gold/Precious Metals: Bullion: Open: £294.0, Close: £293.75, High: £294.10, Low: £293.50, AM: £293.50, PM: £294.10

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD: Mid Rates for Dec 2, Range, Close, 1 month, 3 month

The jam which jars

WITH Christmas coming - and maybe a recession after it - it is always tempting to sail away some cash. But shareholders in Marley should beware Belgians bearing gifts.

On the face of it, the 125p a share cash offer from Exet Group, the privately owned building materials company, seems pretty generous. After all, Marley holds a few records for underperforming, even in an underperforming sector.

However, there is good reason why it may be sensible to look again at what Mansfield is offering. Its bid is more of an attempt to oust the management than anything. Mansfield is a glorified shell company run by turnaround specialists and backed by a bunch of aggressive South

Africans. Marley investors would have ended up owning almost all of the enlarged group should the Mansfield bid succeed.

This is exactly its attraction. Marley is a mess that needs to be sorted out. Stuart Walls, who leads the Mansfield team, is an expert in turnarounds. His strategy essentially involves slimming the company down by selling its concrete and clay operations so its can concentrate on revitalising the timber business.

Should this strategy succeed, it is easy to see a great deal more than 125p a Marley share of value in the Mansfield offer as it stands.

There is little doubt that the current management cannot deliver 125p of value at Marley. But Mansfield's jam tomorrow looks more attractive than Belgian bread today.

Greene King

IT IS all happening in regional brewing. A sector that until recently was being written off as moribund is suddenly firing with hostile takeover bids (look at Wolves & Dudley versus Marston's), brewery disposals (Vaux and tenanted pub sell-offs (Greens/Vaux).

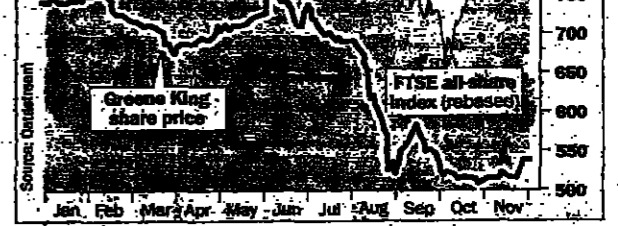
Amid all this activity, Greene King, brewer of Abbot Ale and landlord of the Hungry Horse pubs, serenely puts out a sturdy defence of vertical integration with a better than expected half-year performance.

While the results show that trading is tightening, there were sufficient positives to support Greene King's reputation as one of the best regionalists. Total beer sales were up 1 per cent in a market down 3 per cent, while its cash sales were 2 per cent ahead against a sector 10 per cent lower.

And having been among the first to spot overheating in the high street, it has focused on community pubs. Hungry Horse, 47-strong when it came with the Magic Pub Co acquisition two years ago, will soon hit 100 and is producing good returns.

But will Greene King spoil Wolves's party and enter the fray for Marston's? Its successful integration of Magic Pub shows what can be done and there is growing City support for the idea.

The shares - up 1 1/2p yesterday to 537 1/2p - trade on just nine times full-year earnings forecasts from WestLB Panmure. The rating betrays the understated quality at Greene King. It is a tasty tippie.



M&G

M&G has made some headway re-inventing itself. Two years into the youthful stewardship of Michael McLintock, the chief executive, the investment performance of its funds is showing signs of life. It is too early to call M&G a winner but there is room for confidence.

M&G, under McLintock, has introduced welcome latitude to what was a long and fiercely held set of investment limits. By embracing more fashionable bond investment and index tracking the company has broadened its attraction to retail clients. And to buyers of M&G shares.

The improved investment performance and product range has only stemmed the flow of customer defection. It is not yet good enough to have punters flocking in. More generally the continued equity market volatility may alienate retail investors. A full-scale

meltdown would have M&G looking 'sick' indeed. The changing structure of tax incentives on savings with the advent of ISAs will also confuse and disrupt demand.

The bottom line, however, is that demographics, changing working practices and state withdrawal means that individuals see increasing need to save for old age and unemployment. That, together with what remains of a strong brand, underpins M&G's future. Hold.

MEPC

YOU need to look further than the new headquarters of MEPC for evidence of the property company's recent rehabilitation after a period of lacklustre performance. MEPC now rents, rather than owns, its offices in Wigmore Street in London. It leads James Tuckey, the chief executive, to quip: "Now we know what it is like to be a tenant."

But the move is also the most visible of a string of changes made at MEPC over the past 18 to 24 months. Senior management has been overhauled with the appointment of Sir John Egan, of BAA, as chairman, a new finance director and the creation of a corporate development post. MEPC has also disposed of most of its overseas properties. The company has waded out the lower yielding properties from its UK portfolio and its debt gearing is now down to the industry norm.

The changes were apparently prompted by dissatisfaction on the part of the company's two main shareholders, Phillips & Drew and Co-operative Insurance Services. But while MEPC is a more tightly run ship, it is still one that is tottering in choppy waters.

With a slowdown in property investment already evident and the country teetering on the brink of recession, MEPC is only a hold.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFE

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The world's biggest companies have decided that they are not big enough. So they are merging. Some, like banks and accountancy firms, are in search of global power, an ambition that makes the average citizen shiver. Others, like the oil companies and car manufacturers, are trying to shelter from hard times.

A similar process created much of Britain's industrial establishment in the 1920s and 1930s. Some of today's merging monoliths, such as the drug and insurance companies or Siebe/BTR, have a little of each in mind. Prices, profits, jobs and innovation are all part of the equation.

What are the competition authorities doing about it? Peter Mandelson, our Trade Secretary, seems to wish to change our merger vetting system so that he has nothing to do with it at all.

Over to Karel van Miert, the European Commission's eccentric competition commissioner. He argues that the current wave of mergers is nothing to worry about. "There is no reasonable basis to

Mandy cannot shirk merger burden

suppose that mergers should endanger competition," he told the German newspaper *Welt am Sonntag* over the weekend. As they say in tennis, he cannot be serious.

His other argument makes more sense. The recent stream of mergers, according to the ever-flexible Mr Van Miert, "contributes to efficiency and competitiveness, which the Commission welcomes". It just happens that many of the biggest recent cross-border mergers have involved German companies, which used to be subject to the more focused ways of the German cartel office.

Daimler-Benz, Deutsche Bank and the media group Bertelsmann have all bought in America. Hoechst is bravely "merging" with Rhone-Poulenc. France's aggressive drugs champion, just round the Maginot line. Total is predictably taking over Belgium's Petro-

na to create a francophone oil major. Nationalism is part of the merger equation, too.

Can this be the same Mr Van Miert who made things so difficult for the tie between American Airlines and British Airways that it has been shelved? Indeed it is. On that occasion, Mr Van Miert placed his emphasis somewhat differently.

Vetting mergers is not a simple task. Those who pretend it is are not fit for the job. The interests of citizens, as consumers and producers, often differ, as do short and long-term effects. A merger can make competition stronger when forces are made more equal. Conversely, an apparent gain to competition by vertical integration can be bad for consumers.

As a general rule, mergers of competitors are against the interest of consumers unless they can persuade us otherwise. That is



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

where the lobbying, the arguing and the judgment comes in. Take, for instance, the long-running saga of P&O's campaign to merge its cross-Channel ferries with its main rival. The UK authorities repeatedly said no. Then the Commission, flexing its cross-border muscle, grudgingly gave the go-ahead and Margaret Beckett, then

President of the Board of Trade, reluctantly went along.

Rival ferries were cutting each other's throats as Eurotunnel took their market. Unless they were allowed to merge, to cut costs and capacity in a planned way, we would end up with virtually no competition to the tunnel. Now the duopoly is holding peak-rate prices. Is that a necessary price to pay for viable long-term competition or a rip-off that should trigger price controls?

UK utility regulators have gone to great lengths to promote competition in electricity. They have forced the main generators to shrink and be split up, closing most of our coal industry. Has this purely domestic approach been in our long-term interest?

Mergers are a matter of judgment. Benchmarks can be set for those that need special scrutiny, but no set of rules can tell you

which should be permitted or banned. Any test of market share, for instance, would have kiboshed many creative mergers and would rule out the defence alliances that European governments are now arranging. Yet this is, as Adam Smith argued, one issue which cannot safely be left to the market, since the most natural urge of business is to stifle competition and raise prices.

In the EU, erratic decisions are taken obscurely by bureaucrats who do not have to answer for their decisions — a classic formula for influence peddling, industrial bullying and political corruption.

In Britain, an untidy balance combines rapid advice from the Office of Fair Trading with formal tribunals at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission leading to published reports. Each of these processes is tempered by the Trade

Secretary's authority to override OFT advice or refuse MMC bans. The results are still erratic.

Mr Mandelson wants to shuffle off this responsibility. Let a streamlined bureaucracy decide, he argues, getting rid of partisan political interference. As he has already acknowledged, however, the subject is not as straightforward as he first thought. How true. The essence is, however, that merger vetting requires judgments of the overall public interest and the power of discretion.

The exercise of discretionary power is worth many millions to companies involved, but many more ultimately to consumers and employees. Those who exercise it need to be accountable, via the democratic process, to Parliament and to voters.

How easy it is to adjust our ways to those of Brussels, in mergers as in the setting of interest rates. In merger vetting, the unaccountable Brussels way is no model. And avoiding responsibility, with the criticism it is bound to attract, has nothing to commend it at all.

An uncertain future drives the British motor trade to despair

Matthew Barbour reports on the hard road ahead for dealers and carmakers alike

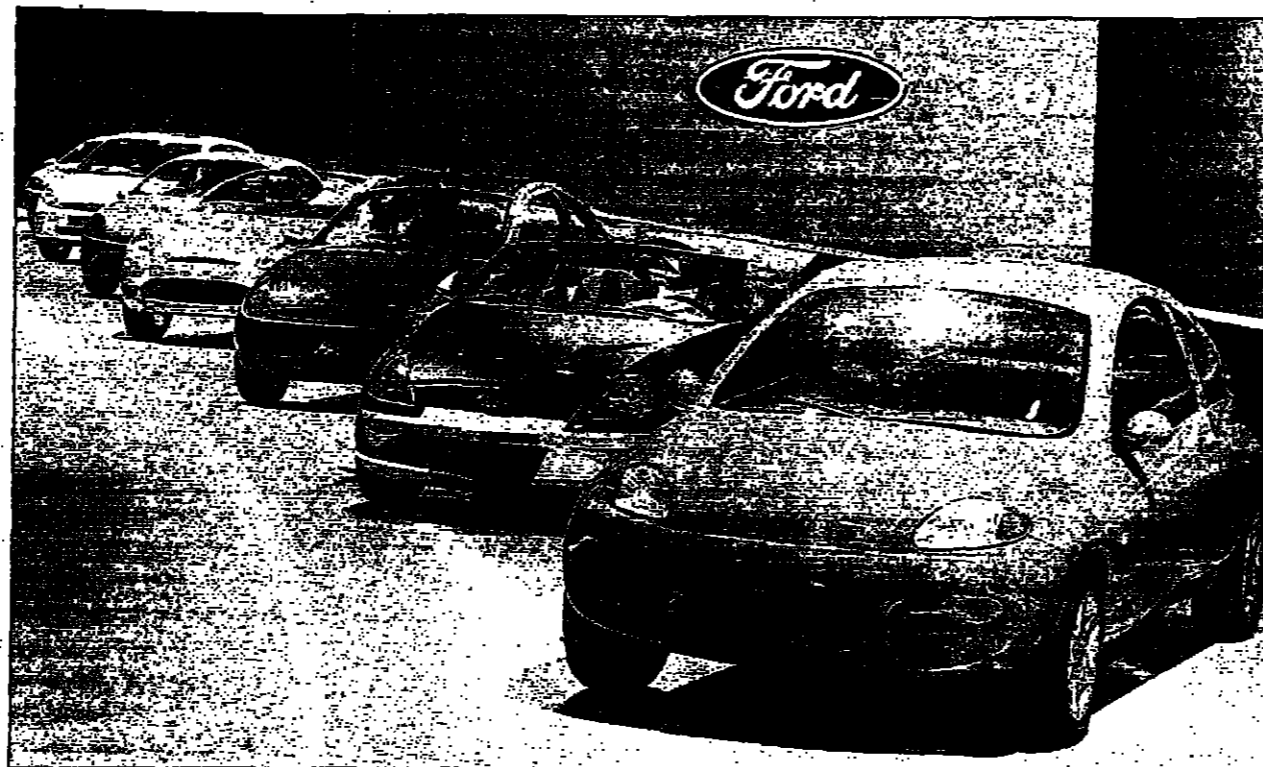
For car dealers, it is time to do or die. Despite the fact that 1998 is set to be the second-best year on record for new car sales, competition among the UK's 5,000 or so dealers is growing and margins are wafer-thin. As recession — or at least fear of recession — has brought a fall in both new car sales and second-hand car prices, and the combination of European monetary union, a competition investigation and increasing imports from Europe bites, the structure of British car retailing is looking increasingly fragile.

Manufacturers, it would seem, hold all the cards. They are cutting their dealer networks and awarding fewer franchises covering larger areas in return for bigger demands on those they retain.

"The life of the small, independent dealer is changing. Because of profitability problems, manufacturers are creating larger dealer territories — it's the only way to control their market share," said Mel Morris, chairman of Concept Automotives, the car dealer based in Surrey.

Eight years ago, when new car sales topped 2.3 million and margins for dealers were in the region of 3 per cent, a dealer's life was good. But in the early 1990s car sales dropped to almost 1.5 million a year and small dealers were pined against each other in ever-shrinking geographical areas. Manufacturers gave dealers the chance to rebuild their margins with larger regional networks. But to take on new, bigger areas, the dealers had to buy up small local rivals, a considerable and potentially risky investment.

As this was happening, so the fundamentals of the market were changing. "The manufacturers, especially the big players, have steadily been losing their share in a much more fragmented market," said Alan Pulham, director of



Overtaken: Ford has seen its British market share contract from 27 per cent to less than 18 per cent since 1989

the National Franchise Dealers' Association. "In 1990 Ford, Vauxhall and Rover controlled about 35 per cent of the UK market, whereas at the moment they control only about 40 per cent."

Since 1989 Ford's share of the British market has fallen from 27 per cent to less than 18 per cent, while Vauxhall's share has fallen from 16 per cent to 14 per cent. Winners include Volkswagen, with a share of the market that has risen from 7 per cent to 9 per cent and Renault, with a share up from 4 per cent to 7 per cent.

"Our market share has fallen, but so have the other major manufacturers," said a Ford spokeswoman. "We've limited the amount of dealers we work with because it is a more competitive marketplace."

Falling market share is only one problem for the sector. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has launched an investigation into vehicle pricing after renewed complaints that cars can be bought 30 per cent cheaper on the Continent. The Office of Fair Trading passed the file on after concluding that a complex monopoly in the supply of cars is operating in the UK.

At the same time there is the issue of importing cars from abroad. Parallel imports of new cars from Europe at present account for only 15,000 sales a year, however, the new "grey" market poses a somewhat larger problem for dealers and manufacturers alike. Under the Single Vehicle Approval Scheme, imports of these cars, which come mainly from Asia and do not conform to EU or UK-type approval, is limited to 50 a year of any one model. However, a consultation document issued last month by John Reid, the Transport Minister, proposed scrapping these limits provided the cars passed tougher safety tests.

Mr Pulham said that this could open the floodgates to as many as 200,000 grey imports a year, crippling franchised dealers. So while manufacturers might feel that they are losing ground, dealers are faring little better. None of the UK's dealers has more than 3 per cent of the total market — "wringing" little bargaining power with the manufacturers.

"Any profits made by dealers are now immediately challenged by the levels of investment required by the franchiser," said Mr Pulham. The system appears to create

an interdependence between the two players: dealers depend on manufacturers for regional market control and manufacturers depend on dealers to increase their market share, tying them in with high-pressure contracts.

One explanation for the wafer-thin margins of little more than 1 per cent achieved by the majority of dealers is the growing lack of brand loyalty. If a buyer does not like the deal at a Ford garage, he probably will not drive 50 miles to the next Ford dealership, but will look at local alternatives.

Another problem is that of overcapacity. A report published last month from KPMG's European Automotive Practice in Birmingham said that over the next three years, Europe's carmakers plan to build 15 million more cars than there is demand for.

But all is not lost for the small independent dealers, according to Mr Pulham. "For a smaller dealer, the situation is reversed as long as they control their own patch away from the big dealer territories," he said.

"It maintains a local loyalty which transcends brand loyalty. I believe this sort of small dealer will always flourish because the logistics of covering these areas for the big dealers are not economically viable."

John Bowell, an Andersen Consulting partner specialising in automotive distribution, said that because of the lower margins being achieved by dealers on new car sales, they are forced to recoup profits from used vehicles, parts, servicing, finance and insurance.

"With ongoing consolidation in the sector, what we're moving to is a new stream of superdealers, small villages where customers go to test out cars for the day," he said.

With one central office, dealers can benefit from synergies of scale, sharing workshops, finance and administration costs and storage space.

The dealers that have decided to expand, such as Pendragon and Reg Vardy, are building substantial market empires. Pendragon is now the only company allowed to sell Fiat inside the M25. Vardy has a Fiat monopoly from Tyne-side to Yorkshire, and on Nissan in Leeds and Birmingham.

"The move is all in the customers' interest," said Mr Bowell. He predicted that within two years the number of UK

dealers will be reduced by more than 50 per cent. The latest half-yearly survey of the country's franchised dealers by the Retail Motor Industry Federation has disclosed falling retained profit margins, deteriorating relations between dealers and manufacturers, and sales incentive programmes becoming more ineffective in the face of consumer reluctance to buy.

The findings are borne out by the UK's largest used-car supermarket chain, The Car Group, which went into receivership last month owing £30 million. Floated in 1996 with a market capitalisation of £50 million and the aim of selling 200,000 cars a year at fixed prices, Car Group's shares fell from 225p to less than 5p before it collapsed.

Dealers that have reduced their exposure to the sector voluntarily because of the declining margins in recent years include Henlys and Lex Service. Henlys, the bus manufacturer, ended its 79-year history as a car dealer last year when it sold its motor division for £56.0 million, and Lex Service last year sold its downmarket dealerships to Pendragon to focus on the high-margin market for Mercedes and Jaguar cars.

David Leibling, Lex communications director, said: "The dealerships that we sold were mainly Ford and Vauxhall. They are high-volume low-margin, which was not effective."

Over the past few months the City has valued shares in leading UK dealers at an astonishingly low level, in many cases at just four or five times prospective earnings. With the threat of recession in the air, customers seem to be increasingly reluctant to pay the list price for a new car.

Mr Bowell at Andersen believes that the only way forward for car dealers is to build customer loyalty.

"Dealers need to provide a long-term, personal service as much as a definite product if they want to survive in what is becoming an ever-more open competitive market," he said.

Those, like Sir Richard Greenbury at Marks & Spencer, who say there is a bloodbath going on in the high street, should feel glad they are not trying to sell cars.

Blind faith in biotech on the wane

The shambles at Cortes could scarcely have come at a worse time for the UK's biotechnology industry. The sector had just started to recover from this year's mishaps and controversies at British Biotech, Biocompatibles International and Cortes itself.

Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday urged pension fund managers to invest more in biotechnology. But after Cortes gave warning of flaws in its two lead development programmes, investors are entitled to ask whether they can ever trust these companies.

With Macritonin, Cortes is seeking to make a capsule form of calcitonin, an approved treatment for osteoporosis. It started filing for approvals in August last year, encouraging hopes that the drug would be on sale by now. But it has become clear that the trials have essentially collected the wrong kind of data.

The company's shares had already collapsed in June after Glen Travers, its Australian chairman, was forced to leave when it was discovered that on top of his salary, he was enjoying benefits worth more than £300,000 a year. Lord Patten, who took over as chairman, declared that Cortes would henceforth be a transparent, hype-free company.

Laughably, the September results that made this claim omitted the most recent setback for Macritonin — an indication that Finland was not prepared to grant its approval. Subsequently, Cortes has received similarly depressing feedback from a southern European nation. This looks likely to scupper hopes of launching

Macritonin for a further six years. Cortes will need to conduct more lengthy trials that it cannot afford. And, in any case, Cortes may need to give a higher dose of the drug, making it unprofitable to produce.

Phil Gould, acting chief executive, has also decided that trials of Pseudostat, a vaccine for chronic bronchitis and cystic fibrosis, are also seriously flawed. This is a personal tragedy for Michael Flynn, the chief scientific officer, who has had to leave Cortes after more than 20 years. Whatever doubts investors had about Mr Travers, they were always reassured by the softly spoken Irishman. Such faith now looks badly misplaced.

The scope for enthusiastic biotech firms to mislead investors is huge because of the complexity of the regulatory and medical worlds in which they operate. But it is scarcely surprising that investors will feel cheated if they belatedly learn of important background detail about trial design, changing regulatory demands or other matters. Unfettered optimism just isn't good enough.

The Department of Trade and Industry will today issue an antidote response to the Science and Technology Select Committee's investigation into the British Biotech affair. The Government will essentially leave the industry to its own devices, lending its support to a code of practice to be drawn up by the BioIndustry Association. The code will draw together corporate governance and other pharmaceutical industry standards, but its main work must be to address the issue of how much to tell investors.

PAUL DURMAN

Numbers game

JUST how did the market get the Arcadia profit warning so wrong yesterday? There was much merriment over the role of the company's broker, CSFB, left in the unfortunate position of defending the Arcadia share price between the start of trading and the issue of the warning at 11.10 am.

The warning was sparked by a profits downgrade by Warburg Dillon Read, e-mailed to the company late on Tuesday ahead of publication yesterday morning.



"I get the feeling that he's trying to tell us something"

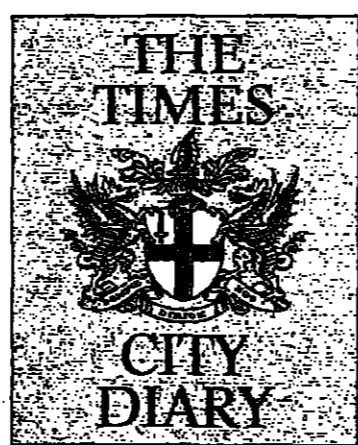
This is a normal courtesy: cynics have suggested that such promptings allow the company to check and, if necessary, correct the analysts' work, but this would be contrary to Stock Exchange rules and, anyway, Warburg says no guidance was given.

John Hoerner at Arcadia, company sources say, decided to bring forward the warning after seeing the Warburg note. Warburg did not know of this. CSFB knew of neither note nor warning, and was hung out at the start of trading rather than allowing your own broker so exposed?

"That was the quickest they could do it because they had to verify the numbers," says my Arcadia source.

ANOTHER profits warning, at Hornby, reminds a colleague of an incident involving a broker friend who ran a small investment club and bought into the train set maker at its lowest point, when the whole company was worth less than £10 million. He accidentally bought too many shares, ending with a deplorable stake registered in his name.

The market buzz was that a corporate raider was stalking Hornby. The management was spooked into asking him for lunch. And every time he passed the dealing room the market makers shouted "Choo Choo".



By degrees

MARTIN TAYLOR'S "helicopter inter-eller" is not in doubt. But there are strange glitches in the legends that have grown up over the former Barclays chief executive's illustrious academic career.

Received wisdom is that Taylor won a scholarship to Oxford, swapped from English to Mandarin in his first year and still picked up a first. While Taylor freely admits he achieved only a second, frequent profites suggest he completed his Mandarin course in two years.

Yet the Balliol College register shows that John Martin Taylor arrived in 1970 from Eton but was not awarded either a scholarship or an exhibition. He stayed four years and

picked up a second in Oriental Studies (Chinese). Assuming he switched in the first year, this gave him at least three years to complete his degree.

Taylor is a modest man and would not have colluded in such myth-making. But the myths are still there.

To his credit

A TOUCHING story from the Banking Ombudsman's report. A pensioner goes to Paris, and in Pigalle comes across a nightclub offering an X-rated live show. He pays the large entrance fee with his credit card. Sadly the performance does not live up to his expectations.

Back in the UK, he asks the Ombudsman to have the club struck off the list of outlets where the credit card can be used and has to be told, tactfully, that this is not possible. His reason for trying to do so? He did not want anyone else to be "similarly disappointed". Sweet, really.

THERE are 800 jobs at risk in Sunderland and elsewhere if the breweries owned by Vaux, up for sale along with 350 pubs, fail to find buyers and are closed. Feelings are running understandably high.

So the following message has been posted on the Save Our Breweries website: "My name is Amy Wilson and I am seven years old. Can you tell me what will happen to the nice dray horses if the brewery is shut down. I like horses very much and would be very sad if they had to move."

Bad omen

A READER sends me a helpful briefing from Margaret Beckett. Leader of the House of Commons, on preparations for the millennium bug. "A number of departments are very advanced," she says, and most computers were prepared for the evil day.

Alas, I cannot tell you any more. The other 19 pages of the 20-page briefing are blank, save for the cryptic words "Error, undefined. OFFENDING COMMAND: print. STACK:" I wonder what it all means?

MARTIN WALLER



Margaret Beckett's briefing on the millennium bug had a bug

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CHANGING TIMES

What price to fight fraud?

Jon Grant on choices facing society about how accountants and legislators should tackle deception

How much should society pay in its fight against fraud? Most people would be reluctant to answer this without having an idea of what the economy currently loses from fraud. How much is that? The instinctive approach, at least for accountants, is to aggregate losses from known fraud cases over a period. Such a calculation suffers from incomplete information on detected fraud and cannot reflect cases not detected. Economists may criticise an approach based on aggregating known losses, claiming that such "losses" are not an outflow from the economy but redistribution of resources within it. They are more likely to think of the cost of fraud in terms of loss of confidence in capital markets, costs of investigating and prosecuting it and costs of running regulatory systems to prevent fraud. A different view on quantification is not just an academic issue. Attitudes towards what the cost is will influence views on the type of remedial action required. Social policy

is also likely to be influential. People losing savings through fraud will probably feel that any approach towards quantification fails to reflect fully the suffering of innocent parties and that all fraud should be eradicated. The Auditing Practices Board (APB) is concerned to define the role of auditors in dealing with fraud. In 1995 it issued an Auditing Standard, SAS 110, which specifies auditors' responsibilities to detect and report fraud as part of an audit of financial statements. It has also consulted the accounting profession and the business community on ways that the auditors' role could be extended to facilitate fraud detection. Neither group seems keen on change. Auditors are concerned about their exposure to liability claims, and business finds it undesirable to impose extra costs on all companies to address wrongdoing by a minority. The APB has reviewed the implementation of SAS 110 and believes that, since its introduction, auditors' aware-



Grant: fuelling debate

ness of fraud during audit has increased. The APB is, however, concerned that the expectations of users still exceed what auditors can deliver. This concern has been heightened by our research into recent fraud cases, which showed that material fraud almost always involves directors or senior management of the companies involved. Management fraud is notoriously difficult, if not impossible, for auditors to detect because it usually involves collusion — often with third parties — forgery and willful misrepresentation to auditors. Our research has also given us a greater appreciation of costs and difficulties of investigating suspected fraud

and the powers that the authorities need to be able to do this. The APB faces a dilemma. If an expectation gap remains in relation to detection of management fraud, should it require auditors to do more work and so increase audit costs for all companies? Or should it maintain the status quo, knowing that auditors may be criticised if frauds were not detected? Such a decision would be eased if the APB had greater confidence that "more of the same" would significantly increase detection and so be cost effective. The APB is also aware that increasing audit effort is not the only response to fraud. A more effective response — and one that may be more efficient for society — may be to put more emphasis on prevention, rather than detection. That would require changes to company law and corporate governance, rather than to audit. Choosing the best course involves tension between potential benefits of regulation and encouraging an environment that aids commercial success. The APB has therefore decided to issue a consultation paper, *Fraud and audit: choices for society*, to stimulate debate on what should be done to establish the right balance be-

tween benefits to society from increasing the likelihood of detecting management fraud and the costs and consequences of doing so. The paper studies difficulties associated with detecting management fraud and outlines approaches that could be taken to make better use of audit, whether by changing the emphasis of the financial statement audit or by applying auditors' skills in ways additional to existing responsibilities. It also describes changes to company law and corporate governance that may help. Comments on the paper are invited by March 31. Views from all sources will be valuable as we consider whether to change Auditing Standards. Responses will also influence the APB's contribution to the Government's company law review and development of guidance for auditors in connection with Listing Rule requirements on directors' reviews of internal controls. Economists will recognise this as a multiplier effect — one response influences three important developments. *Jon Grant is technical director of the APB.*

Time for auditors with more bite than bark

THERE is a canine conundrum that has always dogged the auditing profession: whether auditors are supposed to be watchdogs or bloodhounds. A legal ruling dating from before the Second World War states clearly that auditors are merely watchdogs. They were not intended to scour the corporate dog kennels until they find fraud. This led to the similar problem of the expectation gap. Everyone but auditors assumes that the prime reason for an audit is to sniff out wrongdoing, and bring the culprits, should there be any, to justice. Only auditors hold up their hands and say that it is not their responsibility. But this position is becoming harder to justify. Public opinion has increasingly taken the view that auditors are so incompetent, lacking in fibre, and so in the directors' pockets, that they couldn't find a fraud if it sat up and barked at them. Now the Auditing Practices Board (APB), as Jon Grant explains in the adjoining article on this page, has produced a quantity of research and a consultation paper which it is hoped will square up to the problems and produce, if not a solution, at least a greater understanding. This is unlikely. Auditors still find it hard to understand why their inability to come up with fraud culprits is not understood and sympathised with by the public. The research is enlightening. For one thing, it shows how much the nature of fraud has changed. Once upon a time it was petty cash going missing or the falsification of a company's stock that was at its root. However, audit procedures have largely got rid of such routes to fraud. Fraud has moved on to a more remarkable level. The research that the APB carried out was based on access to the Serious Fraud Office's most significant files of fraud over the past few years. And the results are startling. Out of the 23 major frauds, 21 were carried out by senior management, directors or proprietors. And the biggest motivations for the frauds were "disguising losses", "manipulation of share price", or "inflating profit". And 71 per cent of the frauds involved collusion

with some 43 per cent involving collusion with third parties. Fraud is no longer the realm of the loner who discovers that, via a quirk in procedures, he can siphon off cash to spend on the horses. It is now a question not of directly removing a company's cash but of falsifying financial reporting so that senior management's pay is enhanced. Ian Plaistowe, the APB chairman, points to two changes in corporate culture that have led to this. Companies have, under the malign influence of cost-cutting, removed so many layers of management that the more normal internal controls no longer exist. And the great created by share options and a range of incentives based on what the reported figures show has gone through the roof. Fraud is now a boardroom issue, and not the old cliché of clerks falling to temptation. For the consultation document this situation has three possible solutions. The auditors could carry out more complex work. However, that would lead to higher audit fees. Management structures could be changed to limit opportunities for fraud. But that would be resisted by boards as being restrictive. Or the investment community could take a more active role in governance. But traditionally they have been reluctant to do so. It also sets the old governance hairends running. Why should blanket rules hit everyone when the number of fraudsters is, by comparison, small. The answer, which is not the one that the profession wants, is that auditors should seek out fraud. The growth of audit committees and other corporate governance measures have enhanced the role that auditors can play. It is not good enough for auditors to say that "fraud is extraordinarily difficult to detect". Technology should have made it easier to isolate. And if audit costs rise to cover the cost of being bloodhounds, so be it. It is time to shelve the old arguments and for auditors to do what the public expects — bare some good canine incisors and sink them more often into a fraudster's leg.



ROBERT BRUCE

The consultation paper can be obtained from Accountancy Books on 01908 248000.

Testing times for ICA staff

PROWLING the corridors of power at the English ICA headquarters, Dame Sheila Masters is causing consternation. She does not take over as the first-ever female president until June next year, but staff at Moorgate Place are finding that both her bark and her bite can be painful. So much so that she is now known throughout the building as "The Great Dame". The latest

roasting dealt out was over use of technology. Someone had the temerity to send her a communication via e-mail. Knuckles were soundly rapped as a result. Only letters or, in extremis, a fax will do. In from the cold WITH the collapse of all those dreams of an accounting bonanza for the large firms in Russia, a growing stream of refu-

gees is returning to London. The latest to be found knocking snow off his boots in the Square Mile is Ian Strange. After stints as human resources chief at the Moscow offices of Coopers & Lybrand and then Arthur Andersen, he has now taken up the role of secretary of the London Society of Chartered Accountants. Basinghall Street may not be as exotic as Red Square, but he may still

find that the labyrinthine politics of the accountancy profession will tax the skills of even the finest Kremlinologist. Paying their way AS THE accountancy firms all flee the idea of being called anything to do with accountancy and emblazon meaningless slogans such as "professional services" or "business advisory services" above their

doors, there is news that another of the profession's great traditions has bitten the dust. Down at the extremely snooty corporate finance end of PricewaterhouseCoopers, they have chucked out the most infuriating aspect of professional life. "Timesheets", they now say. "What are they?" Clients, who know exactly what will happen when high charge-out rates are replaced by astronomical one-off fees are not necessarily best pleased. ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Readicut warns on trading

THE strength of the pound is still affecting exports, according to Readicut International, the wallcoverings to household goods group, which also said yesterday that trading prospects in the UK look competitive (Matthew Barbour writes). The group incurred a loss of £3.1 million (£4.5 million profit) in the six months to September 30, which it attributed to a one-off restructuring cost of £8 million resulting from the sale of its Whitley Willows and Plasticisers Engineering operations. The interim dividend has been frozen at 0.63p.

BCCI creditors set for disappointment over compensation

By ROBERT LEA

THE liquidator of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, the fraud-ridden bank which crashed in 1991, is set for an uncomfortable ride at today's meeting of creditors, who are expecting news of further compensation over lost savings and investments. Accountants from Deloitte & Touche, the BCCI liquidator, will tell creditors that they can

make no promises about future dividends before a number of legal actions are concluded, including a \$600 million (£360 million) lawsuit against the Bank of England. Depositors who lost their money in a \$13 billion black hole discovered when the Bank of England closed down BCCI have so far received 46p in the pound from the liquidators.

Before today's meeting, the Depositors' Protection Association, which represents 250 BCCI investors owed \$2 billion, had been expecting news of a payment of a further 10p in the pound after a recent \$300 million settlement from Price Waterhouse and Ernst & Young, the auditors. John Richards, the liquidator, said: "I am afraid they won't be getting any news. We want to make a further payout as quickly as possible. However, we will not be giving any indication of the timing or amount of any future payments." Bernard Clarke, of the depositors' body, said: "We were expecting a further payment. The liquidators can be sure to anticipate a degree of disappointment."

Mr Richards explained that it was currently impossible to evaluate potential future payouts because of a number of outstanding legal cases and claims. For instance, former BCCI employees are suing the liquidators for \$500 million in compensation for the stigma of having worked for the bank, while the Bank of England is being pursued over its role as regulator of BCCI. The Bank is being sued for \$600 million under "tort of malfeasance" provisions, which argue that, as regulator, its actions were worse than negligent. The liquidators believe a decision by the Court of Appeal is imminent.



Looking up: Nicholas Smith, left, and Richard Reese, chief executive of Iron Mountain

Iron Mountain alliance boosts Mentmore Abbey

SHARES in Mentmore Abbey jumped 17½p to 108½p, nearly 20 per cent, after the storage company announced that it had entered into a strategic alliance with Iron Mountain, the US market leader (Manus Costello writes). Mentmore said Iron Mountain, an \$850 million (£510 million) company specialising in records management, has paid £27.25 million cash for a 50.1 per cent stake in Mentmore's BDM division, with the alliance assuming £10 million of

BDM's existing debt. BDM manages company records and is second only to Hays in the £100 million UK market. Simon Strong, analyst at Panmure Gordon, said that the alliance put the group in a strong position to expand. "The deal allows BDM to use Iron Mountain's US customers who are based in Europe as a springboard into the continental market," he said. Nicholas Smith, chairman of Mentmore, said that the proceeds from the transaction

would be used to invest in the company's other division, Abbey Storage, as well as allowing BDM to seek acquisitions. Mentmore also announced record results for the six months to October 31, with pre-tax profits of £3.3 million (£2.3 million) on turnover of £16 million (£15.5 million). Earnings per share were 2.98p (2.02p), and an interim dividend of 0.374p was offered (0.34p). BDM showed a 30 per cent increase in operating profit to £2.2 million.

Blick ready for double takeover

Blick, the security pass company, is in advanced stages of takeover talks with two smaller rivals. The company, which rents security systems and swipe-card devices to 30,000 clients, said it has approached one British and one international company. The deals are worth about £5 million each. For the year to September 30 the company reported underlying pre-tax profits up 8 per cent to £13.9 million. The total dividend rises to 14.5p (14p).

Alba advances Alba, the maker of radios, televisions and power tools, said that pre-tax profit increased by 17 per cent to £3.76 million in the six months to September 30. Turnover was 7 per cent higher at £117.9 million, with earnings per share at 5.81p (4.76p). The interim dividend is 1.6p (1.4p). The company said that "trading continues to be good despite the general UK retail sales slowdown".

Birkby ahead Birkby, the commercial property management group, announced pre-tax profit up 20 per cent to £5.98 million for the six months to September 30. Annualised pre-tax income increased from £15.3 million to £18.2 million. Earnings per share lifted 20 per cent to 9.1p and the interim dividend is 2.6p (2.5p).

Eve improves Eve Group, the engineering company, reported pre-tax profit up 26 per cent to £1.9 million for the six months to September 30. Turnover was £40.8 million, up from £36 million, with earnings per share at 12.9p (10.4p). The interim dividend is 2.67p (2.3p).



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Equities down after early rally

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS, LEISURE & HOTELS, OIL & GAS, RETAILERS, FOOD

HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS

MEDIA, SHORTS (under 5 years), MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years), UNRATED, INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation

MINING, PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT

WATER, RETAILERS, GENERAL

PHARMACEUTICALS, BRITISH BONDS

SUPPORT SERVICES

Table of equity prices for various sectors including ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, BANKS, BREWERIES, PUBS & REST, BUILDING MATERIALS, CHEMICALS, CONSTRUCTION, DISTRIBUTORS, ENGINEERING VEHICLES, FOOD MANUFACTURERS, LEISURE & HOTELS, OIL & GAS, RETAILERS, FOOD, HEALTHCARE, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TEXT, INSURANCE, INVESTMENT TRUSTS, MEDIA, SHORTS (under 5 years), MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years), LONGS (over 15 years), UNRATED, INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation, PHARMACEUTICALS, BRITISH BONDS, SUPPORT SERVICES, WATER, RETAILERS, GENERAL

Recession? A couple of tips to cut the travel budget. 1. Ban Air Miles - it's bribery! 2. Fly easyJet. 0870 6 000 000 www.easyJet.com easyJet

Main table containing unit trust prices for various funds, including columns for fund names, unit prices, and other financial metrics.

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NEW VIDEOS

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
PAGE 38

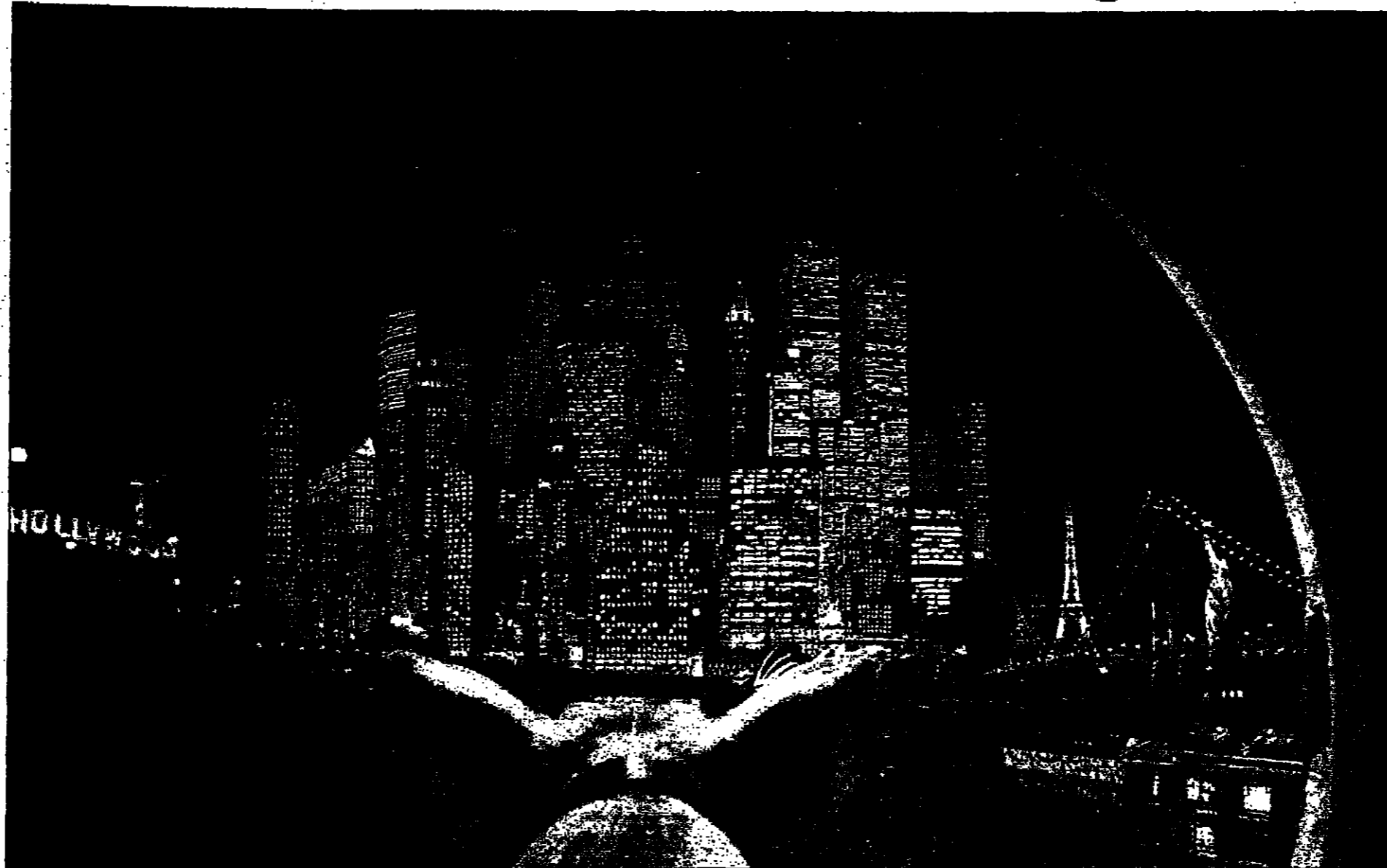


NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown mourns the eclipse of everyone's favourite porker in *Babe: Pig in the City*

Little lamb to the slaughter

Within ten minutes, James Cromwell's Farmer Hoggett lands up in traction. Ma Hoggett (Magda Szubanski) is suspected of carrying drugs, harassed by bikers and thrown in jail. Mickey Rooney's character, Fugly Floom, is carried out on a stretcher and does not return. Ferdinand the duck is nearly killed on a rifle range. And Babe, poor Babe, gets tormented by humans, abused by chimps and threatened with death in a pitbull's jaws. Welcome to *Babe: Pig in the City*. Babe itself had a few dark corners: we were forcibly reminded that the pig's natural place was on a plate, not on Hoggett's farm, being cute and polite and herding sheep like a dog. But in their search for ways to take the creature beyond the confines of Dick King-Smith's original book, the film-makers, led by director George Miller, have let darkness dominate to a grotesque degree. What child or adult who embraced this pink talking pig with beautiful ears and an adorable snout wants to see their hero messing with characters usually seen skulking in "mean street" movies or some Fellini carnival?

The city itself is a world composite, featuring, among others, New York's skyscrapers, Venice's canals and the Eiffel Tower. Facing bankruptcy through Farmer Hoggett's indisposition, Ma and Babe fly in from their rural haven, expecting to win money at a state fair. The situation gives Miller a convenient plot — the innocents abroad scenario — although its virtues are jeopardised by the glee with which the director of *Mad Max* depicts his hostile city. Starving kittens; a crippled dog with back legs on wheels; a pink poodle of the streets; sassy chimps who blow gum; you cannot see Babe's sweetness and light for the urban animal refuse. Without any sheep to herd, Babe's identity crumbles. Eventually he becomes leader of the city's dispossessed critters, but this development is poor compensation for the original's clear dramatic line.



Urban blight: if there is to be a follow-up to *Babe: Pig in the City* the makers had better be clear about who they are making the film for: children, adults, or their own psychiatrists

Pig in the City, filmed at the Fox studios in Sydney, is at least technically accomplished. Sets, costumes and camera angles blend to create a cockeyed universe. Animatronic creatures mingle effortlessly with flesh and blood. The endearing trio of singing mice weaves in and out, along with fertile new variations on the Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony theme. *I'll Had Words*. But it is disheartening to see so much effort wasted on a film

whose concept is so misguided. The next time Babe trots out to our screens — if he does — the film-makers had better be clear about who they are making the film for: children, adults, or their own psychiatrists. Among current movies in America, only *There's Something About Mary*, *Armageddon* and *Dr Dolittle* have earned more money than *Rush Hour*. Within nine weeks more than \$130 million has passed hands at the box office. In exchange audiences have seen nothing special: just a neatly tied bundle of action comedy and mortuorific dialogue tailored to the very different talents of Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker.

It helps, of course, that both players are on a roll. After delighting Asian audiences for years with his balletic action stunts and winning smile, Chan is now breaking through internationally. Tucker, too, is moving up, from stand-up comedy to film cameo and beyond, strutting through scenes with his lanky frame and excited, high-pitched squawk. With eyes fixed on the star attractions, audiences may not notice so promptly the routine "odd couple" plot, which turns up in Hollywood movies every six weeks.

Two unlikely police partners, a bumptious loose cannon from LA and a quietly dedicated tough guy from Hong Kong, are forced together for the case of the Chinese consul's kidnapped daughter. The East-West theme provides use-

- Babe: Pig in the City**
Empire, U, 98 mins
Moral: don't leave home
- Rush Hour**
Warner Village
15, 98 mins
Routine box-office hit
- On Connaît la Chanson**
Renoir, PG, 122 mins
Alain Resnais bursts into song
- Twilight**
Plaza, 15, 95 mins
Veteran cast gives kiss of life to an inconsequential thriller
- Dancing at Lughnasa**
Curzon Mayfair
PG, 95 mins
Brian Friel's play arrives with all passion spent
- Year of the Horse**
ABC Piccadilly, 107 mins
Concert film with Neil Young and Crazy Horse
- Underground**
Metro, 18, 96 mins
Low-budget British movie with signs of talent

ful material for jokes about language and Chinese food, although Hollywood caution seems to have inhibited Chan's physical exuberance: the stunts he performs are noticeably fewer, and less dangerous, than usual. Tom Wilkinson does a suave turn as the regulation British villain; but, all in all, there must be better

ways of wasting time than seeing *Rush Hour*. A visit to *On Connaît la Chanson* could be profitable, provided you appreciate refined comedy, French popular music and the whimsical artifice of late-period Alain Resnais. The high-minded days of *Last Year at Marienbad* are far in the past; the director now puts his name to minor diversions and stylistic games, made with delight in mind. The film, a multiple award winner in France, is announced as a homage to Dennis Potter, although there is nothing Potter-esque in sight apart from the way the characters burst into lip-synched snatches of popular song.

In the deft script by actors Agnès Jaoui and Jean-Pierre Bacri (the hot talent responsible for *Un Air de famille*), couples, sisters, friends and would-be lovers criss-cross through one another's very Parisian lives. The lip-synching is amusing, especially to Francophiles, but the sweetness of this meringue ultimately depends on its cast. Actors like André Dussollier, Sabine Azéma and Pierre Arditi could make even a speech by John Major sing, and they guarantee two hours of delight.

Twilight would also lose its appeal with a different cast. There is no obvious fascination in its inconsequential plot about a down-at-heel private eye lured into a murder mystery by rich Hollywood

friends. But put veteran charmers such as Paul Newman, Gene Hackman, James Garner and Susan Sarandon up there onscreen and you have to keep watching. The architecture, too, plays its part: scenes are played out in and around historic Los Angeles houses designed by MGM's art director Cedric Gibbons, Frank Lloyd Wright, and one of Wright's students, John Lautner. Robert Benton's thriller may be hollow inside, but its surface trappings and autumnal air should provide quiet pleasure. A film for the old at heart.

Last Friday's edition of *The Irish World* carried some good news. "We've found Meryl's Irish relatives," the front page shouted. In view of the release of *Dancing at Lughnasa*, the hunt had been on for living links in the Emerald Isle to Meryl Streep, chief box-office draw for this adaptation of Brian Friel's play. It is cheering indeed that there may be a distant cousin descended from Streep's great-grandmother, though this still leaves the movie Streep appears in looking like a falsehood. By the way, Friel's impressionistic play can sweep up an audience in the fortunes of five spinster sisters and one brother (a priest) in a Donegal town during the worried summer of 1936. So where did that passion disappear to? Some of it

vanished into the folds of the overly compressed script; other parts wafted into the landscapes, prettily but routinely caught by the director, Pat O'Connor. The cast, Streep included, is entirely decent (her sisters include Catherine McCormack, Kathy Burke and Sophie Thompson); but it is an uphill struggle to feel involved. Personal taste will dictate your involvement in *Year of the Horse*. Jim Jarmusch's concert film celebrating Neil Young and his backing band, Crazy Horse. The images match the rough, driving energy of Young's music; and there is nothing calm or collected about the interview snippets hurled into the frenzy. Jarmusch's affinity with the veteran band is obvious; but the film has more to offer Crazy Horse fans than lovers of Jarmusch's usual laid-back cinema.

Just give us the facts

There has been enough dramatic invention about the famous, the notorious and the plain interesting over the years to ensure that we do not get too frothy at the mouth about yet another example. But I feel the saliva rising nonetheless.

Tomorrow night at 9pm, Radio 4 broadcasts a play called *Waiting for the Earth to Move*, by John Fletcher. It is billed as telling the story of Nick Leeson and the collapse of Barings Bank. The pace of the play suffers from too many examples of characters explaining things to each other on behalf of the listener and the dealers portrayed are absurd stereotypes, but the play is interesting as a fable of greed gone berserk.

But can we believe it? We are surely meant to. The play opens with: "My name is Nick Leeson." He is in almost every scene, apart from those set in Barings' London HQ, which feature an out-of-touch executive of the old school played by Richard Briers.

RADIO

Given that the last scene of any play does much to decide the listener's attitude to the main character, what are we to make of the last scene in this one? Leeson speaks: "I lie alone in my spotlessly clean, air-conditioned cell..."

Wrong, Leeson shares a cell with two other prisoners and it is not air-conditioned. The BBC knew about the error at least a week ago and would have known earlier, had not the much vaunted Producers' Guidelines either failed to deliver or been subject to a remarkably liberal interpretation.

The guidelines state that persons portrayed in a drama or their surviving near relatives should be notified in advance and, where possible, their cooperation secured. A Radio 4 spokeswoman told me this week that in advance meant before transmission and that Leeson's connections had not been told about the play. In fact, Stephen Pollard, Leeson's solicitor, told me that only when he contacted the BBC on Monday was he invited to listen to a tape of the play. No changes have been made to it.

My point is not that a couple of errors negate the play. A dramatist is entitled to invent dialogue, indeed whole scenes, but he loses credibility by stating something as a fact that is patently not. And one starts to question the rest of the play. Is it true, for example, that when the old banker sends an emissary to see the Queen, she is excited to learn about the futures market before the conversation turns to horses?

Leeson's story is a fantastic one. There are millions of words in the cuttings libraries. Leeson has written a book. So why does the story of Nick Leeson peddle a falsehood? By the way, Leeson is still in a cell with two others and it is still not air-conditioned; I only had to make one phone call to check that.

PETER BARNARD

'Snug and lovely'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY

Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: One of the happiest cinema experiences I can remember. Carl Clarke, 19: An absolute delight from start to finish. Charlotte Daley, 19: Parents beware: this pig is so cute it's bound to find its way on to a few children's Christmas lists. Alison Julliard, 20: Better than the original. A snug and lovely movie regardless of your age.

RUSH HOUR

Leslie: Kung fu superstar Jackie Chan hits the big time. Carl: You can't help but like Chan, and be blown away by the martial arts.



Charlotte: OK, so there's not much of a story. But it's enormous fun, particularly the outtakes at the end. Alison: Step aside Schwarzenegger, Chan is set to be the next king of the action movie.

Twilight: Leslie: With a cast this good, I expected the script to be more than just run-of-the-mill, and it wasn't. Carl: I don't think I'd pay cinema prices to see it, although it's worth a rental in a few months. Charlotte: Paul Newman and Susan Sarandon are both masterly.

Alison: Not the most original of storylines, but the star-laden cast helps to make this very watchable.

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4TH DEC: CURZON MAYFAIR and across the country

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Picture this under the tree

Everyone who cares about the Italian Renaissance was appalled by the earthquake damage inflicted on Assisi, killing four people and reducing frescoes from Giotto's workshop to rubble. The tragic moment was caught on videotape, and these images provide a sombre back cover for *The Basilica of St Francis: Glory and Destruction* (Abrams, £15.95). But the front cover, and most of the colour plates inside, are excellent photographs of the interior by *Chigo Roli*. Completed just before the disaster, they provide an invaluable, poignant record.

Close photographic scrutiny is also the central strength in *Velázquez: The Technique of Genius* (Yale, £35). Art historian Jonathan Brown collaborates here with conservation scientist Carmen Garrido on a penetrating examination of 30 outstanding canvases. By using infrared reflectography, they uncover crucial changes in the paintings' development. Velázquez's willingness to improvise is laid bare, but even more revealing are the large details from his work. A late painting, *Mercury and Argus*, contains passages so free and mysterious that they seem almost abstract close to.

Another revelation is provided by the collected edition of *William Blake's Illuminated Books* (Tate Gallery Publications, £98 for boxed set of six). Reproduced to the most exacting standards, they bring the reader into contact with the very pulse of Blake's ardent imaginings. Very few artists have also been major writers, and in these books he brought his dual abilities together with magnificent conviction. *Songs of Innocence and Experience* is the most widely loved vol-

ART BOOKS: Richard Cork gets between the covers of the perfect present for your art-loving friends

ume, but the images produced for *Jerusalem* show Blake's visual power at its boldest. During the same period, other artists became infatuated with recording the ancient civilisation of Greece. While Lord Elgin was exporting sculpture from the Parthenon frieze, they travelled the country producing views now handsomely surveyed in *A Luminous Land* (J. Paul Getty Museum, £30). Ranging from picturesque views to full-blooded romantic landscapes, they include remarkably elaborate reconstructions of Athens at its zenith. C.R. Cockerell's tempera painting of *The Parthenon Restored* even shows densely populated ceremonies enacted on the forecourt. But I am thankful that plans by the great German architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel, commissioned by Ludwig I for a new royal palace on the Acropolis were never executed.

Victor Hugo found time, in between novel-writing, to make marvellously wild and inventive studies in ink and wash. Ruined, moonlit castles rear over rocky headlands, wrecked galleons writhe in turbulent seas, and in one surreal image a colossal, rotting mushroom thrusts high above an epic landscape. *Shadows of a Hand: The Drawings of Victor Hugo* (Merrell Holberton, £39.95) does full justice to these compelling, near-abstract visions.

The drawings in Stephen Calloway's *Aubrey Beardsley* (V&A Publications, £25) are far more familiar. And their cold

emphasis on clean, wiry contours is the antithesis of Hugo's atmospheric brooding. But the precocious Beardsley was just as daring in his own way, and his death at 25 robbed British art of an innovator. Calloway interweaves life and work with expert skill.

Now that the Millennium Dome has risen by the Thames, it seems timely to look back at its predecessor in the era of postwar austerity. The Festival of Britain rightly forms an important part of Margaret Garlake's *New Art World* (Yale, £35), an intelligent, deeply researched look at British art between 1940 and 1960. While focusing on well-chosen works throughout, Garlake never lets us forget the wider social and political context they spring from.

RoseLee Goldberg's *Performance: Live Art Since the 60s* (Thames & Hudson, £32) starts where Garlake finishes. Goldberg charts the extraordinary boom in work by artists prepared to act out, in public, a whole range of obsessive concerns. Acute physical distress, erotic excitement, political protest and bizarre fantasy abound in these dramatically illustrated pages, many reproducing photographs that are now the only visual record of the performances she discusses. One of the most memorable performances of the period, when Joseph Beuys spent a week "in captivity" with a wild coyote, reappears in Caroline Tisdall's moving book *Joseph*

Beuys: We Go This Way (Violence Editions, £29.95). Tisdall worked with Beuys over a momentous and productive 13-year period, travelling and photographing his events, lectures, installations and private moments along the way. The 410 photographs illustrated here capture the energy, persistence and charisma of this indefatigable artist.

Zest and flair are the hallmarks of icons of Architecture: *The 20th Century* (Prestel, £19.95). Each double-page spread is devoted to an outstanding building, starting with Gaudí's sublime Sagrada Família in Barcelona. Although commenced in 1884, this astounding *tour de force* is still incomplete. But it makes most modern churches seem tame. The austere Miles van der Rohe and the exuberant Frank Lloyd Wright are here given the accolade of two buildings each, and they could hardly be more opposed in spirit. But Wright seems the more prophetic, for the book concludes with Frank Gehry's swaggering, titanium-clad masterpiece, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao.

The genesis of Gehry's showpiece is analysed in fascinating detail by Coosje van Bruggen's book, *Guggenheim Museum Bilbao* (Abrams, £35). Having worked with Gehry on previous projects herself, van Bruggen is well-placed to show how this miraculous structure grew out of his earlier concerns. Preliminary drawings and photographs of the museum under construction enliven the text, and the book climaxes with superb pictures of the triumphant outcome, shimmering and buckling by the water's edge.

● *New books on photography, page 41*



Pat Oleszko's work *Charles Patless* (1976), taken from RoseLee Goldberg's book *Performance - Live Art Since the 60s*

CONCERTS: American minimalism at the Barbican; the LPO in high spirits; focus on Schoenberg at the Wigmore; and Rossini showcased in Liverpool

Everlastingly yours

Nobody exemplifies the subtitle of the Barbican's *American Pioneers* festival - Innovators, Rule-Breakers and Iconoclasts - better than La Monte Young, so it was appropriate that he should bring the series to a close with the first British appearance of his Theatre of Eternal Music Brass and Strings Ensemble. The real "father of Minimalism", whose life has taken him from a log cabin in Idaho to studies with the Indian guru Pandit Pran Nath, is a true original.

To many Young himself is also a guru, and there were those who hung on every word of the bearded figure who for the introductory talk lumbered on to the darkened stage in sunglasses, vintage Levi's and leather gloves. But nothing in the talk, or in the pre-concert programme of hauntingly beautiful Indian traditional music, prepared one for the strange impact made by the British premiere of *The Melodic Version* (1984) of *The First Blossom of Spring* from *The Four Dreams China* (1962). *The First Blossom of Spring* is music of great purity. Here it took the form of an instrumental hum lasting 100 minutes, but considering that the composer's *Dream House* consists of sound and light installations that run for years, we were let off easily.

Maybe the best comparison



Rule-breaking guru: the minimalist La Monte Young

is with the dark, gigantic canvases of the Rothko Chapel: this aural equivalent is a seemingly featureless musical landscape in which the sounds evolve so slowly the change is hardly noticeable. There is also a sort of spirituality here, even if it is not the kind that Young's Mormon ancestors would have recognised.

The piece features "performed silences", and indeed it is out of silence that the first solo cello note grows. The four cellos and eight muted trumpets are allowed a certain amount of improvisatory freedom, though the score is made up of just four pitches, or a "Dream Quadra". Beginning from a soft buzz, the cumulative effect is of a hypnotic drone, evoking some of the other musical cultures that have influenced Young.

Complementing the sound was the slowly shifting light designed by the composer's wife, Marian Zazeela. It was all atmospheric enough, though probably only spaced-out listeners would have found it truly profound. Perhaps when he wrote that "if people aren't carried away to heaven I'm failing", Young was being a little hard on himself.

Knight of high drama

The London Philharmonic Orchestra's engagement party for its new principal conductor-elect, Kurt Masur, continued in high spirits last Friday. There was much pre-concert cheerleading ("Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome - KURT MASUR"), and a little post-concert chat-show on stage. And then, of course, there was the small matter of the music in between.

Conducting for much of the time bouncing on tiptoe, Masur released in Shostakovich's *Symphony No 1* the sheer joy in creation with which this teenage student work can delight its audience, if only it is allowed to do so. The excitable march and the skittish waltz of the first movement rang out of strings and woodwind as trim and bright as the ubiquitous triangle.

Individual soloists seemed to crystallise out of the orchestral texture. Indeed, the second movement's bassoon solo was poised on that pivot-point of mischief and menace which would develop in later Shostakovich into such compelling expressive ambivalence.

At times it seemed as if we

were already on the edges of the volatile world of a Tili Eulenspiegel or a Don Quixote. But for that we had to wait until after the interval.

Few cellists are more intimately acquainted with the *Knight of the Doleful Countenance* than Lynn Harrell. And Masur, well aware that Richard Strauss was more than ready to turn his attention to opera by the time he came to write *Don Quixote*, gave Harrell just the space and stagecraft he needed to reinvent the character all over again.

Harrell's body language is almost as eloquent as his cello. He bares his teeth at the confused jarring of timpani, trumpets and trombones before he has played a note. He seems to fix his eyes far into the future as the mirage of the bleating sheep appears on the horizon.

He catches, as if in peripheral vision, both the sweet pleading of Joakim Svanheden's violin and Norbert Blume's sardonic Sancho Panza viola solo. And he positively freezes at the sight of the distant religious procession which, in Masur's hands, was nicely comic in its definition of mistaken identity.

At the Don's nocturnal musing on his experiences, Harrell's cello solo recalls nothing so much as the dying Falstaff "babbling o' green fields". And it was Masur's skill in maintaining that fine balance between folly and frailty, the noble and the ridiculous throughout Strauss's ten variations, that made this all too regularly programmed piece seem for once deliciously irregular.

Horrors by moonlight

The austere arrow-head of a recital hall in the new Schoenberg Centre in Vienna is certainly an apt icon for chamber music-making as uncompromising as that which Schoenberg himself promoted in his Society for Private Musical Performances in Vienna at the beginning of this century. Hilary Finch writes. But it would take a lot to beat the Wigmore Hall for sheer close-focus, consistently dedicated listening.

And so it is that the Nash Ensemble brings its *Vienna and the Romantic Century* here. On Tuesday attention was focused on Schoenberg's mould-breaking *Pierrot Lunaire*, and on the ensemble arrangement which he (probably he) made of Mahler's *Lieder eines Jährenden Gesellen* for one of his society's concerts.

This version for string quintet, flute, clarinet, horn, piano and percussion distils the pungent colours of Mahler's orchestral version, while setting the solo voice in even starker relief than in his piano arrangement. Ian Brown's piano and Paul Watkins's cello conjured a dark trance for the hugely resonant mezzo-soprano of the young South African Michelle Bredt. Then, as her footfall grew sharper of rhythmic definition, the ensemble's soloists flung sound high into the air with a bucolic coarseness unique to this version.

Bredt's mezzo is full and fearless: with piano and woodwind honing the blade of the dagger in the third song, it was impossible not to recall an-

As the high point of the evening, Fassbaender herself took on the speech-song of Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, with the Nash Ensemble conducted by Maryn Brabbins. In her performance savagery and nostalgia co-exist, and form a thrilling link in sensibility between Mahler and Schoenberg. This was a sombre reading, gashed by gaping horrors, as the moon itself becomes scimitar and poets are vulture-pecked.

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Rediscovering sacred Rossini

It takes a conductor like Petr Altrichter, whose tastes are far from trendy, to revive such a work as Rossini's *Stabat Mater*. Once a staple of choral societies everywhere, it is now in danger of being forgotten. Certainly, it has its faults but as Altrichter duly demonstrated - with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir and a hastily reassembled quartet of soloists - there is so much high-quality music in it that it deserves regular attention.

The problem with the *Stabat Mater* is not so much that Rossini applies an operatic style to a sacred text as that he does it so incoherently. In attempting to suppress an early version, which he had been forced to abandon through illness, he complained about its stylistic discrepancies. And yet on completing it ten years later, he committed the same aesthetic sin, most glaringly in *Cujus animam*, a splendidly

heroic operatic aria for tenor but alien both to the grieving text it sets and to the churchy introduction that precedes it.

Deputising in the Philharmonic Hall for Paul Charles Clarke, Paul Austin Kelly sang *Cujus animam* with such flexibility, and with such ease on extending to the notorious top D flat, as to compensate for a relatively small sound. He was no match in this last respect for Claire Rutter who, deputising for Rita Cullis in the solo soprano role, sang with fully operatic splendour and correspondingly little restraint. She was more evenly matched with Jean Rigby, most effectively of all in the seductively written duet *Quis est*

homo - another of Rossini's late additions, this one punctuated with absurdly theatrical explosions on the brass. The bass soloist, who sang the rather more appropriate *Pro peccatis* with duly serious colouring, was Graeme Broadbent.

Rossini's greatest inspiration on completing the work in 1841 was the last movement which, as well as crowning the work with a double fugue, integrates the construction by recalling the introduction. Here the RLP Choir was at its best. A comparatively small ensemble had safely negotiated a choral version of the preceding unaccompanied *Quando corpus quare* and in the finale, driven by a dramatically ambitious Altrichter, the full chorus gave voice as sonorously to the tricky contrapuntal passages as to the solid assertions of G minor harmonies at the end.

GERALD LARNER

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CHANGING TIMES

THEATRE
Rewritten musicals

ARTS

TOMORROW
Garth Brooks reviewed

THEATRE: As the musical *Martin Guerre* hopes to make it third time lucky, Matt Wolf wonders why some shows just won't lie down and die

The show must go on

It has long been a show business axiom that musicals aren't written, they are rewritten. But even that cannot explain the accelerated tendency of late to launch elaborate salvage missions for shows dismissed at various times as duds.

Almost exactly two years ago, the world premiere of the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical *Whistle Down the Wind* received a scorching review from *The Washington Post*, which led to the cancellation of its Broadway run and a sizeable financial loss — estimated by the composer at some \$9 million, if one factors in costs on a film version that was never made.

But rather than throw in the towel, Lloyd Webber overhauled the show for its current London run at the Aldwych. The result in July was further mixed reviews, alongside serious business at the box office. Lloyd Webber's one-time colleague, Cameron Mackintosh, is attempting an even more spectacular transformation for his musical, *Martin Guerre*, which won the Olivier Award for Best Musical but lost its \$4 million capitalisation. Like Lloyd Webber with *Sunset Boulevard*, Mackintosh took the unusual step of revamping *Martin Guerre* during a 20-month West End stand of more than 700 performances. Now the producer is going one better, opening an entirely new version of the show in Leeds — the biggest-ever venture for the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

How best to explain such commitment: affection? ego? bloody-mindedness? "Sheer affection is no reason to keep a show on," says Mackintosh, who has brought in one Irish director thought to be good at directing rustic characters (Conall Morrison from Dublin's Abbey Theatre) to replace another (Cheek By Jowl co-founder Declan Donnellan).

"If you believe in something as a worthwhile piece of writing, which I do about *Martin Guerre*, then you keep it going," says Mackintosh, who, of course, has made enough money — "hundreds of millions of pounds between myself and my investors" — from the creative team of Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schönberg (*Les Misérables*, *Miss Saigon*) to finance *Martin Guerre* for ever.

'If you believe in something, you keep it going'

What Leeds will see is an entirely refocused, pared-down endeavour built to tour following its 13-week run, with fresh orchestrations by William Bröhn (*Oklahoma!*) requiring a sensibly-sized orchestra of nine.

"The future of *Martin Guerre* is not a show with a company of 60 but of 25 to 30," says Mackintosh, who has spent the last few years similarly reshaping his show, *The Fix*. "That means a lot of people will be very interested in doing it; it makes something which is hopefully going to be done ad infinitum." Indeed, an American production is due to start rehearsals next August at the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis. "We're a bunch of people



Playing hide and seek with success: will the revamped version of Boublil and Schönberg's *Martin Guerre* fare better in Leeds than this 1966 production did in the West End?

who want to get it right," says leading lady Joanna Riding, the musical's new Bertrand. "Nobody in that rehearsal room has been remotely precious; at no time has there been any mention of this is what happened in the previous show."

Co-lyricist and librettist Boublil (with Stephen Clark), who so far has spent seven years on *Martin Guerre*, explains the perseverance: "It's not ego as far as I'm concerned. I just cannot go to something else when something inside me tells me

my work is not finished on the previous one; I'm another perfectionist." Boublil agrees the issue is one of scale. "We're not trying to make *Martin Guerre* what it cannot be. Forget the barricades or the helicopter. Our show was always very far from being the third *Les Mis* or *Miss Saigon*. We didn't want an epic; we wanted a serious drama treated in operatic form." To that end, the show boasts 60 per cent new music; lyrically, says Boublil, a scant three pages remain from before.

Still, it is evident that the deep pockets of a Lloyd Webber or a Mackintosh are required to persist with such messianic zeal. "I firmly believe if *Whistle* had gone to Broadway, it probably would have done all right-ish," Lloyd Webber told me prior to the London opening. "But what's the point, when you're my age, of not getting it as right as I possibly can?"

Such fervour is hardly unique to Britain. Abetted by a fresh team of producers, the Broadway musical *The Scarlet Pimpernel* recently underwent a thorough revamping — a new director and two new stars included — of what had been considered a lingering theatrical turkey. "At last they found it: a show that works," crowed *The New York Times*, though it remains anyone's guess whether the musical will ever show a profit.

American composer Jerry Herman continues to bash away on a project — *Mack and Mabel*, about silent film director Mack Sennett and the comedienne Mabel Normand — that flopped both on Broadway in 1974 and in the West End three seasons ago. "I believe *Mack and Mabel* can be a successful entity," says Herman, whose beloved musical features heavily in the 44-string revue of his work, *The Best of Times*, currently at the Vaudeville Theatre.

A READER OFFER THE TIMES

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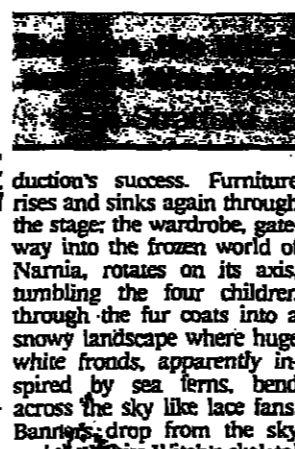
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CHANGING TIMES

Narnia wins the war but loses the battles

The original story bubbles with magic, precisely graded into hierarchies of importance, since this is how C.S. Lewis saw the world. Ordinary magic means that animals talk, trees move and mermaids sing. "Deep Magic" requires Aslan the Lion to be sacrificed, but a magic even deeper than this allows him to rise again. In our own workaday world we must do the best we can with stage magic, and here Adrian Noble's production comes close to satisfying any child's longing for colourful transformations as well as delighting older heads with generous offerings of subtler trickery.



At the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Anthony Ward's exquisite designs ensure the production's success. Furniture rises and sinks again through the stage; the wardrobe, gateway into the frozen world of Narnia, rotates on its axis, tumbling the four children through the fur coats into a snowy landscape where huge white froids, apparently inspired by sea ferns, bend across the sky like lace fans. Banishes drop from the sky and the White Witch's skeletal sleigh is yawned by two superbly proud and inquisitive reindeer. The pacing hooves of this pair (Bill Cohen-Alford and Michael Moylan), and their turning heads when their noses pick up the aroma of Turkish Delight, are an early assurance that at least what we see will be powerfully imagined.

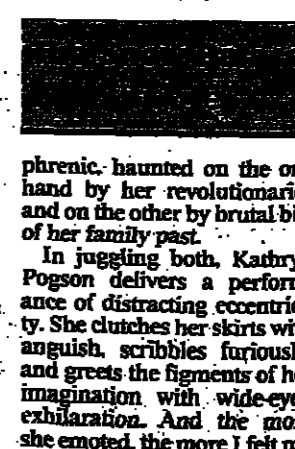


This comes as some relief, because there is only so much adolescent bounce and bossiness one wants to take. Adrian Mitchell's adaptation carefully follows the book, losing and adding a little but keeping the wartime background for the adventure, although the actual war seems to have had little influence on Lewis's purpose, which was to retell the Christian story through a new mythology. However, the war must have been responsible for the numerous references to food — Mitchell even adds one of his own — where tea, fried fish, lunch packs and feasts mark almost every new encounter.

Frozen in time

A DECADE ago, Pam Gems carved a play called *The Danton Affair* out of a rambling, 600-page document by the illegitimate daughter of an obscure, boozey Polish playwright. In *The Snow Palace* she tackles the miserable existence of the daughter herself, Stanisława Przybyszewska. Obsessed with the French Revolution, she lived in a freezing school hut, fuelling her wild delusions with morphine until she died of hypothermia in 1935, aged just 33.

Gems's play is, in fact, far more acute about the loneliness of the long distance writer than it is about this mad woman who saw in Danton the swinish lechery of her real father, and in Robespierre the virtuous disciplinarian she never had. By the time we meet her she is a virtual schizo-



phrenic, haunted on the one hand by her revolutionaries and on the other by brutal bits of her family past.

In juggling both, Kathryn Pogson delivers a performance of distracting eccentricity. She clutches her skirts with anguish, scribbles furiously, and greets the figments of her imagination with wide-eyed exhilaration. And the more she emotes, the more I felt my interest receding.

It is not for want of subtlety. The play is full of clever contradictions, not least the lack of control Stanisława has over her characters. Sliding unambivalently with Nigel Cooke's Robespierre against Danton in the moral feud about eradicating vice, Stanisława's bony wrath becomes disfigured by the self-indulgence of it all.

She is not the only one. Mark Lewis Jones bulldozes any distinction between Danton and Stanisława's debauched father by playing both as burly Welsh rugby players. Between them they open a family can of worms, but the genuine passion they seek to convey is as deep-frozen as winter in Gdansk.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

JEREMY KINGSTON

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

BOOKS

هكذا من الأصل

Creation and commerce commingle

Swing through the urban jungle: Peter Ackroyd on Peter Hall's *Cities in Civilisation* and a new history of London



Peter Ackroyd

It is common knowledge, or ought to be, that cities tend to be safer and less noisy than the countryside. Now, in *Cities in Civilisation* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £30; ISBN 0 297 84219 6), a voluminous and heterogeneous study, Peter Hall suggests that cities are also the most natural places on earth. In this opinion he is not alone. Aristotle argued that a good man is by nature "political", accustomed to congregate and to debate, he belongs in the city; he who is cityless (there is no "she" in Aristotle's world) is "either low in the scale of humanity or above it".

This serves as the epigraph to Peter Hall's studious celebration of "the creative city". Why did cars come from Detroit, and "the blues" from Memphis? Why was information first industrialised in San Francisco and Palo Alto? And where is the new Detroit of the imagination? In the first section of this book, subtitled "The City as Creative Crucible", Hall adduces examples as disparate as 5th-century Athens

and 16th-century London in order to provide evidence of urban life representing an "extraordinary efflorescence of the human spirit". It may even be that cities are the only place where the spirit can flourish — hermits go into the wilderness in order to debase themselves.

Certainly it seems to be the case that, in the course of English literary history, novelists and poets (as well as dramatists) have felt irresistibly obliged to travel to London in order to find success. And yet London of the 16th century, like Athens of the 5th century, was an insular and dangerous place where life expectancy was low and public provision minimal.

In retrospect it might seem that the citizens, despite their difficult lives, were swept up by an energy and glory that have no tangible or rational origins. This in turn leads to the question often posed by students of urban history — does the city belong to its citizens, or do the citizens belong to it?

It is interesting and significant

that, in his account of 16th-century London, Peter Hall refers exclusively to the drama; in the process, the city itself becomes a form of theatre. In the same spirit, within this account, Vienna becomes the city of music and Paris the city of the visual arts. These are apt terms with which to generalise about the ungeneralisable and to render chaos negotiable. The central point is that Hall's great cities are celebrated for their ability to sustain imaginative vision and creative energy: they are not the giant mechanisms or mills of 19th-century apocalyptic theory but, rather, the apostles of light.

There is an old German proverb, again used by Hall as an epigraph, that "city air makes you free". One of the great virtues of this compendium is the sense in which all the cities, from Berlin and Glasgow to Los Angeles and Florence, are deemed to be vital and invigorating. Their streets are charged with excitement, and one Berliner wrote of his own city that it possessed "an intensely inspiring, energising power" which "provides the heat I must have in order to work". Yet by means of a synergy which connects imagination with technological advancement, that "heat" revitalised the shipping industry in Glasgow, radio technology in Palo Alto and craft production in Tokyo. As Hall suggests, these cities possessed "a nervous energy, a belief that there were no limits to the possible".

Yet, as every city dweller knows, everything connects with everything else in an impalpable but persistent manner. The innovation within painting in late 19th-century Paris thus resembles "what had earlier taken place in Lancashire cotton and was simultaneously happening in Glasgow ship-building: an able young generation simply innovated within an existing local industry". It may be surprising to connect Impressionism with ship-building, but it is one of the virtues of this book that it permits the widest views — "just as Detroit did not invent the automobile," Hall writes in a particularly suggestive passage, "but did invent the mass-produced automobile, so did Los Angeles not invent the motion picture but did invent the studio system of mass-produced motion pictures".

He presents the city, therefore, as "innovative milieu" in which all the forces of a certain period come together in a unique synthesis. Thus he locates Manchester, in 1770, with the rise of the cotton industry and proclaims it as the first true centre of industrial invention. But why there, and not elsewhere? It is the persistent and unanswerable ques-

tion which this narrative raises, and to answer its effects Professor Hall has mastered all the complexities of what he calls "location theory". Certainly the ancient concept of territorial spirit or *genius loci* has some relevance here — but it can only be detected through the passage of history. In one very interesting chapter, entitled "The State as Permanent Innovator", Hall finds the origin of the success of the 19th-century region in its condition during the late 19th century.

In a postscript, Peter Hall cites London as "the epitome" of his great and expansive theme. This city, more than any other, represents the permanence of the urban ideal and, in *London: A History* by Francis Spufford (H.P., £25; ISBN 0 19 925202 5), narrates its astonishing growth and expressive identity over 2,000 years. Both quote from William Dunbar's line, "thou art the flour of Chieff all", as an apt 16th-century invocation of a permanent reality. Perhaps it might even become Peter Hall's "City of the Coming Golden Age" where human ingenuity and cultural advancement inaugurate a new era in the endless transformation of the cityscape. It is a bold prospect for a bold book.



And aw' that jazz

JELLY ROLL
By Luke Sutherland
Anchor, £6.99
ISBN 1 86230 030 5

THOUGH shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award, Luke Sutherland's tale of the internal dynamics of a Scottish jazz band is as tired as a roadie at the end of a world tour. The book's themes — sex, drugs and rock'n'roll — are a marketing department's dream. But the language, and the author's attempt to convey the Scottishness of his characters, falls flat. So we wade through speech which owes more to *Beowulf* ("Hiv ye ever got aff wi ir?") and the King James Bible ("We dinnit see eye tae eye aw the time") than to the contemporary Scottish bandlands.

Battle scars

TRIAGE
By Scott Anderson
Macmillan, £12.99
ISBN 0 333 72731 2

WAR photographer Mark Walsh returns from Kurdistan with more than a bagful of negatives. When he arrives back at his trendy New York loft and the embrace of his girlfriend Elena, he is a wasted body with a limp and a crippling secret. It takes Elena's grandfather, a psychologist and dubious moral character, to get Mark up and running again. Scott Anderson, a journalist who has covered wars around the world, writes passionately and with an attention to detail that comes only from personal experience. A dark and devastating story of war and redemption.

He or she?

CROSSING THE BORDER
Tales of Erotic Ambiguity
Edited by Lisa Tuttle
Indigo, £7.99
ISBN 0 575 40117 6

GIRLS' blouses, Mister Softies, tomboys — this collection of erotic tales panders to all those who want to flirt with gender and be queens and kings for a day. Although the jacket shows soft-focus bodies entwined in a pose more suited to the sleeve of a *Lovers' Collection* CD, the content is altogether classier. Whether it's Poppy Z. Brite explaining why she is a gay man in a woman's body or Ruth Rendell's sex-infused mystery, this collection of new and previously published writing is as thought-provoking as it is stimulating.

Waugh story

THE COMPLETE SHORT STORIES
By Evelyn Waugh
Everyman, £10.99
ISBN 1 85715 190 9

SINCE the 1930s, many of Waugh's early writings have been out of print, but this edition sees ten stories brought back to the bookshelves. The most interesting are those where we can see the germs of his more famous writings. *Anthony Who Sought Things That Were Lost*, an Oxford story, is an embryonic *A Handful of Dust*. Others, such as *Bella Fleace Gave a Party* and *On Guard* are prescient, using the traditional "sing-in-the-bath" narrative twist. But even in these, Waugh's savage wit and schoolboy humour for grown-ups doesn't just jump out of every page — it pours a glass of port, lights a pipe and lets out a hearty guffaw.

Band aid

SERIOUS TIME: A Rap Diary
By Joe Ambrose
Pulp Books, £8.99
ISBN 1 901072 10 X

THE SUBLIMINAL Kids may have the corniest name in rock history, but they are thriving in 1980s London. A group of troubled Irish punks, they live in Brixton, break the law, play music and have a lot of sex. Kim, the band's manager, guides us through a scorching, seedy world of violence and crime. In a publishing climate where shoddy drug-music titles are the new currency, *Serious Time* stands out like a plain-clothes cop. Joe Ambrose, a hip-hop artist and friend of William Burroughs, describes the "new" dance-rave sub-culture in a style which is smart, funny and intense.

ALEX O'CONNELL

Tall tinsel tales

Colin Schindler goes behind the silver screen in an anthology of the modern myth factory

Hollywood was the name given to a ranch in the Calaveras Valley, eight miles northwest of Los Angeles, by Mrs Deida Wilcox — whose husband purchased 120 acres of flat waterless country in 1883. When the ranch was subdivided and developed the name remained.

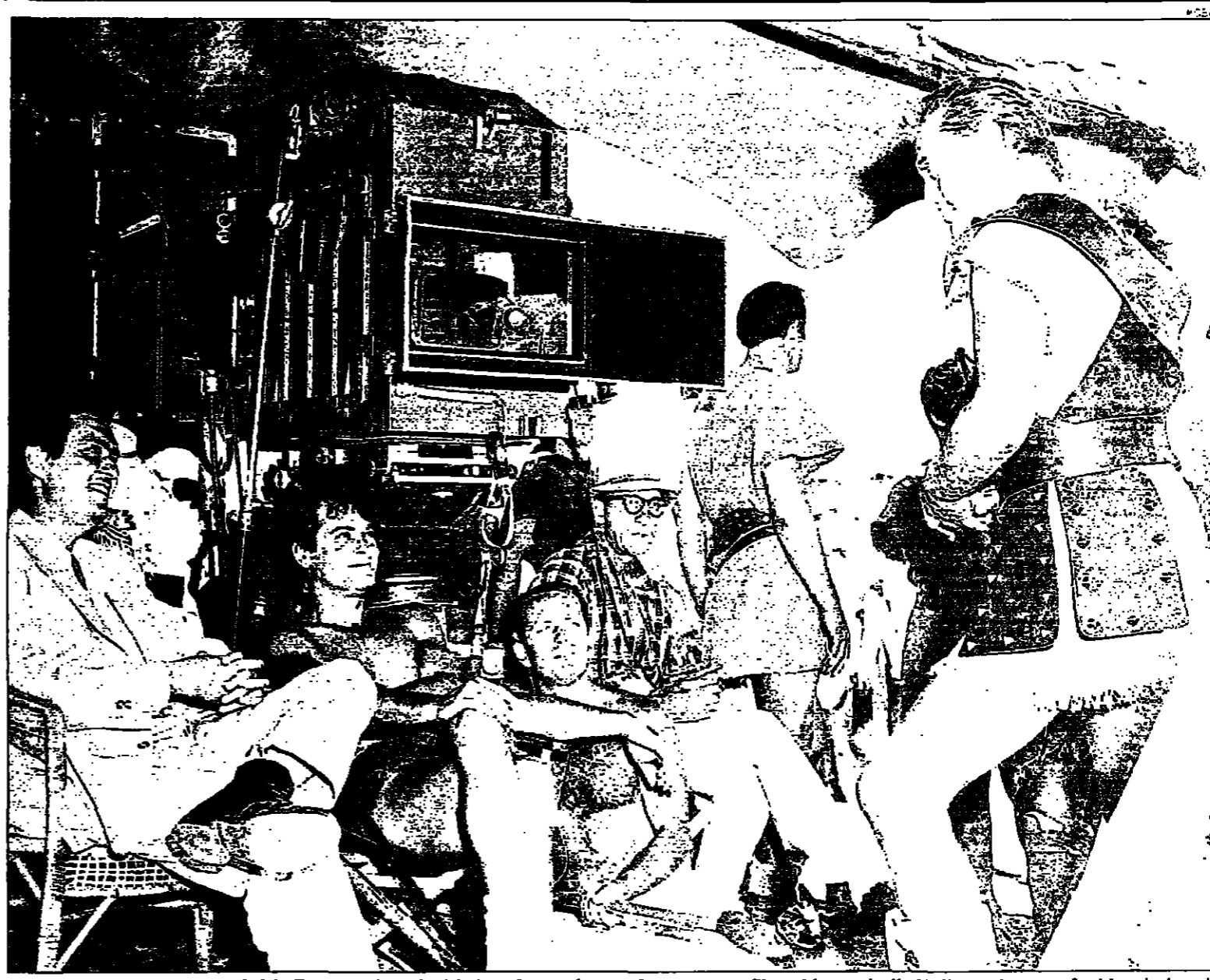
Christopher Silvester's anthology of writings on Hollywood opens with this description of its origins but fails to mention the ultimate irony: Horace Henderson Wilcox was an evangelical Christian who moved from Kansas to build a Christian Utopia in southern California. Mr and Mrs Wilcox would surely have been horrified when the name which promised sylvan paradise became synonymous with hedonistic scandal.

The Penguin Book of Hollywood is like an enormous box of chocolates, perfect for sycophantic indulgence but best consumed in small doses. Hollywood, from its earliest days as the centre of world film-making operated on a logic that was borrowed from *Alice in Wonderland*. Charlie MacArthur, joint author with Ben

THE PENGUIN BOOK OF HOLLYWOOD
Edited by Christopher Silvester
Viking, £25
ISBN 0 670 88065 5



Hecht of *The Front Page*, once persuaded a \$40-a-week British garage mechanic who had never written anything more than a postcard in his life to accompany him to MGM, where MacArthur convinced Bernie Hyman, a top studio executive, that this man was "Kenneth Woolcott", the distinguished British author who thought writing for the movies was beneath him. Hyman grabbed the bait with both hands, implored Woolcott to favour MGM with his pres-



Dream machine: Stanley Kubrick, Tony Curtis and Kirk Douglas on the set of *Spartacus*, a film with a typically Hollywood respect for historical truth

ence, and the barely literate artisan left the room with a year's contract at \$1,000 a week. After banking \$52,000 and not contributing a word to the studio's output, "Woolcott" returned to the garage. MacArthur wrote a letter on "Woolcott's" behalf to Louis B. Mayer requesting a bonus for his compliant attitude.

This book is full of such wonderful anecdotes, most of them from the golden days of the 1930s and 1940s, which consume almost half the book's pages. The story continues into the 1990s but there is no doubt where the editor's interest lies. He might justifiably have imposed himself rather more on his material. The pas-

sage from Jed Kiley's reminiscence of Gene Fowler is a case in point. Fowler is apparently working for Sam Goldwyn at MGM in 1931 and to convince Goldwyn to renew his contract he tosses a pair of old trousers onto Goldwyn's desk because Goldwyn "had been a pants presser in Chicago". In fact, Goldwyn had nothing in do-

with MGM, having run his own production studio for the previous decade and his early years had been spent as a glove salesman in New England. There is perhaps too great a reliance on this historically unreliable personal memoir which tends to unbalance the picture of Hollywood. In an an-

thology of some 150 entries it would have been helpful to have included a table of contents that stretched beyond a listing of nine chronologically consecutive decades. These, however, are minor cavils: the book is certain to bring enormous pleasure to all for whom Hollywood still exerts an irresistible fascination.

It's still possible to ban the Bomb

As they surveyed the wreckage of Europe and the Pacific rim in 1945, the world's politicians realised that Clausewitz's dictum no longer applied. War, in the 20th century, meant an end to politics, not its continuation. So they reached out beyond politics and asked their scientists and engineers to make a machine which would frighten them so much they would never go to war again.

The scientists and the engineers built too well. Plutonium has a half life of 24,000 years — the lifetime of sovereign states can be measured in decades. With the demise of the Soviet Union, there is no political rationale for the world's nuclear arsenals. But the machine survives. When Jonathan Schell's earlier book on nuclear warfare, *The Fate of the Earth*, was published in 1982, its impact was electrifying. Now he has returned to the theme, to argue that nuclear weapons can be abolished, and that the time to do so is now.

TOM WILKIE
THE GIFT OF TIME
By Jonathan Schell
Granta, £9.99
ISBN 1 85207 230 2



the Nobel Peace Prize and who was the only man to walk away from the Manhattan Project of the Second World War before it completed building the first Bomb. He did so because it was clear that Hitler was on the verge of defeat and therefore there was no rationale for continuing with the A-bomb programme. His profile follows an interview with that quintessential Cold Warrior, Robert McNamara. It is a measure of Schell's skill that he can stitch such different voices together to form a compelling argument. He points out that the machine worked only in so far as another

European war did not happen — but there have been wars aplenty elsewhere. The machine worked also, it becomes horrifyingly clear, more by luck than judgment. There is a grants description of how the actual nuclear plans of the United States did not reflect the policies of its political leaders nor the strategy developed by academic think tanks.

Abolition is possible: technically, it may be easier than we think. Some 15 years ago, I pointed out in a *New Scientist* article *Old Age Can Kill the Bomb*, that modern nuclear weapons depend not just on long-lived plutonium, but also on short-lived tritium. Take that away, and they cease to work within about three years. But then comes the argument — repeated sometimes in this book by those who should know better — that nuclear knowledge can never be unvented. This is wrong. A design for a nuclear weapon in a textbook cannot harm anyone. Skilled men and women are needed to convert the "virtual" into the actual weapon. And, as Donald MacKenzie, Professor of Science Studies at Edinburgh University, has demonstrated, weapon-building is a craft skill. If the present generation of weapons designers, engineers and technicians retires without train-



Titan nuclear missile: did luck save us from destruction?

ing their replacements, then the ability to make weapons will disappear. Nuclear knowledge has a half-life. *The Fate of the Earth* was a seminal work of the 1980s: *The Gift of Time* is the crucial book for the 1990s. Jonathan Schell's book deserves to be read and discussed across the globe, so that we can fully appreciate all the choices that

face us after the end of the Cold War. One of those choices is abolition of nuclear weapons. Those who argue in favour of retaining the nuclear option will have to make their case against this eloquent, passionate and well-argued book.

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BOOKS

Philosopher for an age of unreason

Spinoza's dispassion is as relevant today as it was 300 years ago, argues Roger Scruton

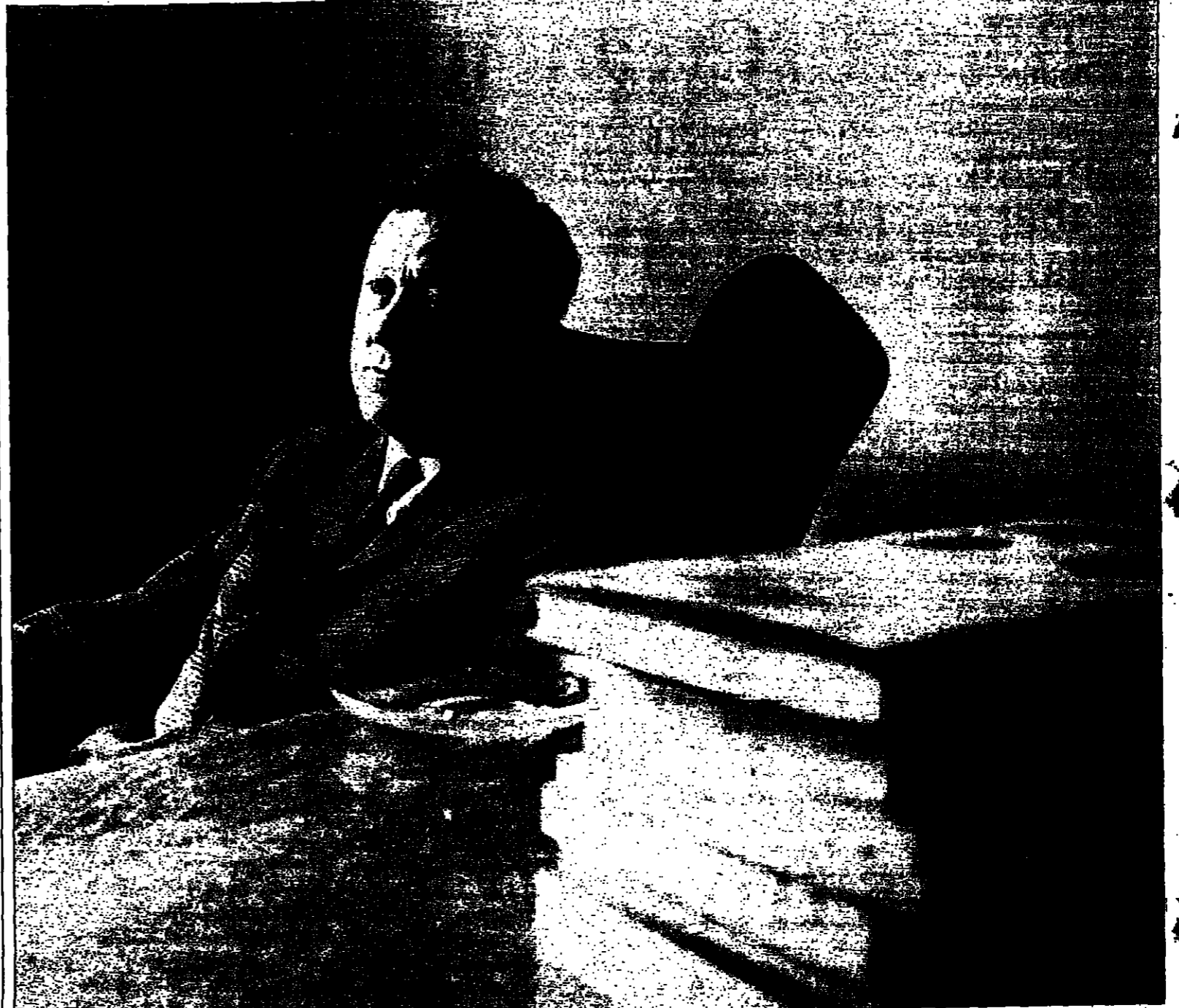
Spinoza's philosophy, which places reason above passion, knowledge above opinion, and meditation above action, is delivered in a mathematical idiom which is all but impenetrable from outside. What kind of life lies buried beneath this monument? Margaret Gullan-Whur sets out to tell us, drawing on the familiar outline left by Spinoza's first biographers, his friends Lucas and Colerus. Born into a family of Hispanic Jews who had come to Holland to escape the Inquisition, Spinoza was brought up in the Orthodox faith and educated in the secular philosophy that had been made current by Descartes. Spinoza's mother-tongue was Portuguese, but he was accomplished also in Hebrew, Spanish, French, Dutch and Latin, in which last language he wrote all his important works, including the great *Ethics*, published posthumously in 1678. He died aged 44 of consumption, after a life in which notoriety warred with reclusiveness, and rashness with a sustained and even pathological caution. Spinoza wrote trenchantly of politics, enjoyed, in all probability, the patronage of distinguished political figures such as Johan De Witt, Grand Pensionary of Holland, and was courted by many of the greatest thinkers of his day. Expelled from the synagogue and anathematised for heresy, Spinoza lived among dissenting Christians and was greatly esteemed by those who knew him, just as he was feared by many who did not. His notoriety was not dispelled by the publication of the *Ethics* and for a century after his death he was condemned as a materialist, atheist and revolutionary, whose vision was even more to be abhorred

WITHIN REASON
A Life of Spinoza
By Margaret Gullan-Whur
Jonathan Cape, £20
ISBN 0 224 05046 X



than the principles which had, in his lifetime, caused his writings to be banned. Spinoza wished to appear as a serene thinker, one who had overcome the follies that he condemned in others, and who lived on an exalted plane of meditation. Was this posture a sham, as Nietzsche argued, a disguise for weakness? Or did he really live out the ideal of reason that he so ably defended? Margaret Gullan-Whur's biography attempts to put Spinoza in his historical context, and to flesh out the record of his doings. Her book gives a vivid picture of Spinoza's Holland, whose political and spiritual turmoil had come to a head following war with Cromwellian England and the threat of invasion from Catholic France. She also makes use of Spinoza's metaphysics — a hazardous enterprise, given its impersonality — and of the letters, edited by Spinoza and his friends so as to betray the bare minimum of personal experience. Diligent searching of the archives has enabled her to fill out details and to question long-held assumptions. She re-

assesses the relation between Spinoza and De Witt and constructs a vivid account of Spinoza's schooling at the hands of Frans Van den Enden, the eccentric and perhaps lapsed Christian who introduced the philosopher to the scientific revolution. But Gullan-Whur does not alter what has been the received idea of the philosopher, as someone who avoided life in order to understand it. Spinoza argued that most people are wrong in most of their opinions, and also, paradoxically, that there is no other source of political authority than the people. Both these views were abhorrent to his contemporaries, and the first remains unpopular today. Gullan-Whur too is repelled by it, and condemns Spinoza as superficial. But Spinoza's contempt for humanity is the reason for taking his life so seriously. He was right in thinking that most people are led by passions which they do not understand. And he was right in seeing this as the root problem of politics. How do we devise a constitution that will ensure that ignorant and selfish people, acting from the normal mish-mash of rubbishy sentiments, will nevertheless uphold the common good? Gullan-Whur expertly uncovers why that question was so urgent for Spinoza. But she seems not to recognise that it is urgent too for us. We live in a time of ignorant constitutional experiment, when institutions which have generated prosperity and security for 300 years are being arbitrarily revised by people without the faintest understanding of their own and others' incompetence. We need someone to look down on them with Spinoza's contempt, and without his understandable but regrettable caution.



Conor Cruise O'Brien: his enduring theme is the connection between nationalism and religion, and his own long interrogation of that fusion

Memoirs of a maverick

Once defended Conor Cruise O'Brien to an obtuse Dublin journalist, who produced a vintage dishing argument: "He's such an opportunist!" In fact, if Cruise O'Brien's career has been notable for one thing, it is his penchant for jumping off bandwagons and leaving him-

self in embattled isolation. This was demonstrated most perfectly a few weeks ago, when — having joined the UK Unionist Party, committed to keeping Ulster British — he suddenly informed his stupefied colleagues that the best guarantee of their position was to go for a united Ireland. At a stroke he was back where he belonged: saying the unsayable with his own brand of ferocious urbanity, or urbane ferocity. This memoir is written in that mode, which is not the least of its delights. It records the life of a world-class intellectual in politics: a phenomenon perhaps more familiar in France than in Ireland or the United States, where O'Brien has spent most of his working life. He began life as a civil servant, in the Department of External Affairs — simultaneously producing a study of Farnellite politics which remains after 40 years the most luminous book on the subject, and also writing a brilliant study of Catholic writers. He was put in charge of Ireland's relations with the UN when the country was admitted to that body in 1956; in 1961 he was appointed Dag Hammarskjöld's special representative in the breakaway Congo province of Katanga, subject of perhaps the most riveting chapter in this book. O'Brien's O'Brien's reaction was characteristic: he resigned and wrote not only a book about the episode, but a play, *Murderous Angels*, fated to be torpedoed (in O'Brien's view) by Joan Littlewood's lunatic adherence to political correctness. That quality has never been part of O'Brien's make-up, as was demonstrated in his post-Katanga career. Three years as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana pitted him against Kwame Nkrumah's totalitarian pretensions; his next appointment, at New York University in the late 1960s, cast him into the anti-Vietnam war movement — all this be-

ROY FOSTER
MEMOIR
My Life and Themes
By Conor Cruise O'Brien
Profile Books, £20
ISBN 1 86197 114 1



fore his entry into Irish politics, as a Labour TD in 1969. He became a minister in a coalition government, and was involved in the ill-fated 1974 "Summingdale" power-sharing experiment set up for Northern Ireland; subsequently his independent line on "the national question" took him out of his party. After a spell as Editor-in-Chief of *The Observer* he became, and has remained, a uniquely heavy-weight political commentator and author of important books on — inter alia — Burke, Zionism and Irish politics. One understands his elder son's weary question when O'Brien told him, back in 1969, that he was going into politics for "the experience": "Now, don't you have enough experience already?" This book is the distillation of that thirst for experience, and profits by O'Brien's ability to analyse it, to admit mistakes, and to trace themes. He also evokes a number of enemy corpses, notably the journalist Kenneth Harris and sundry British diplomats. But the enduring theme is nationalism, its connection with religion, and his own long interrogation of that potent fusion. O'Brien was a child of the constitutional nationalist Catholic middle class, poised to come into their Home Rule kingdom when the 1916 Easter Rising swept Irish politics into a new and radical mode: figures in his family background who embraced the new probity, or were sacrificed to it, are marvellously drawn. So is his cousin Owen Sheehy Skeffington, a high-minded liberal secularist who provided a vital sounding-board for the development of O'Brien's own intellectual independence. In his childhood, the validity of the Ulster Unionist position was denied by nationalists just as vehemently as the Unionists had denied the aspiration of three million nationalists for Home Rule. "In any case," O'Brien adds drily, "each community had a low opinion of the general morals of the other, so the idea of the other as representing any kind of moral force was too outlandish to be entertained." His attacks on the public influence of the Catholic Church and his own reiteration that the Unionists have a case has made him viciously reviled in many quarters of the Republic; the obloquy heaped on him is one reason, perhaps, why he — in my opinion, incorrectly — demonstrates John Hume and believes that the "peace process" signals democratic politicians knocking under to hardline Republicanism, rather than the other way round. The closing chapters of the book abandon autobiography for political commentary, explaining his advice to Unionists to seek a united Ireland as a way of trumping Sinn Féin: a line that, perhaps, assumes that everyone is as clever as he is, and as ready to see through cant and loosen traditional moorings. Alas, they aren't: all the more reason to celebrate his unique and salutary contribution to the public life of Ireland, and the world.

which killed Hammarskjöld, events unravelled horribly. In the end, his Katanga policy — initially disavowed by the UN — was implicitly endorsed. O'Brien's reaction was characteristic: he resigned and wrote not only a book about the episode, but a play, *Murderous Angels*, fated to be torpedoed (in O'Brien's view) by Joan Littlewood's lunatic adherence to political correctness. That quality has never been part of O'Brien's make-up, as was demonstrated in his post-Katanga career. Three years as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ghana pitted him against Kwame Nkrumah's totalitarian pretensions; his next appointment, at New York University in the late 1960s, cast him into the anti-Vietnam war movement — all this be-

Simply a man of his time?

THE PASSAGE of time has not been kind to Matthew Arnold's ideas. His generalisations about culture, about the genius of particular nations, about the way America might improve popular taste and about the continuing importance of Christianity are all out of fashion, to put it mildly. His pessimism fell imaginatively short, and his optimism about "the ideal society of the future" was misplaced. His religion, sense of duty and Hellenism have scarcely any place in today's scheme, and poetry, intrinsic to his sense of literary and national life, has declined so far that Oxford University Press has stopped publishing new verse, and no one now seems able to nominate a plausible Poet Laureate. And yet Arnold was a good writer thinking about great topics, and he remains one of the central characters of the Victorian age. He was right to believe what we are much prompted to forget: that art, manners, intellectual discourse and the cultivation of

taste are crucial to our quality of life. Arnold is especially valuable as an example of disinterestedness. We, confronted with the daily skewing of every principle by politics and money, assume that manipulation of the just and true must be the norm. But Arnold was one who attempted, as he wrote of Sophocles, to see life steadily and see it whole. Even when he is barking in the wrong wood, he never writes as a propagandist. In the century and more since his death, it has been impossible to see Arnold's life whole, for his letters have not been systematically re-edited since the family bowdlerisation of 1895. So the six-volume edition which has now reached its half-way mark was keenly anticipated (*The Letters of Matthew Arnold*, edited by Cecil Y. Lang, University of Virginia Press, vols 1-3; each volume £47.50). Arnold's correspondents include Browning, Clough, Colburn, Mrs Gaskell, Gladstone,



Charles Kingsley, Longfellow, Harriet Martineau, Newman, Palgrave, Swinburne, Thackeray and Wilberforce. Much of the business and gossip of Victorian England is here. However, it is the family correspondence that carries these volumes. Arnold's letters to his mother document a life apparently far too full of children, botany, publishing, travelling and school-inspecting to have any time for letter-writing. Cecil Lang has previously edited the correspondence of both Tennyson and Swinburne, and he cracks on with dispatch and panache. Unfortunately, this edition contains errors which throw doubt on his accuracy (how can an editor of Arnold refer to Rugby College?). There has been a bizarre row in the TLS about his editing, with the collector and librarian Roger L. Brooks writing of "intermittent errors" in the transcription. But in a striking breach of scholarly etiquette, Brooks apparently wished to charge Lang \$10,000 to print 25 letters in his possession, so he is far from disinterested when he writes of "a failed edition". Certainly there are lapses and inconsistencies; Greek phrases should not go un glossed, and to comment in the notes that a newspaper article was "either by Fitzjames Stephen or the devil" is what Arnold would have called freakish and provincial; yet Brooks, for his part, rather than grandly saying that he has withdrawn his support, should be collaborating to improve the edition. There may not be another one.

JIM MCCUE

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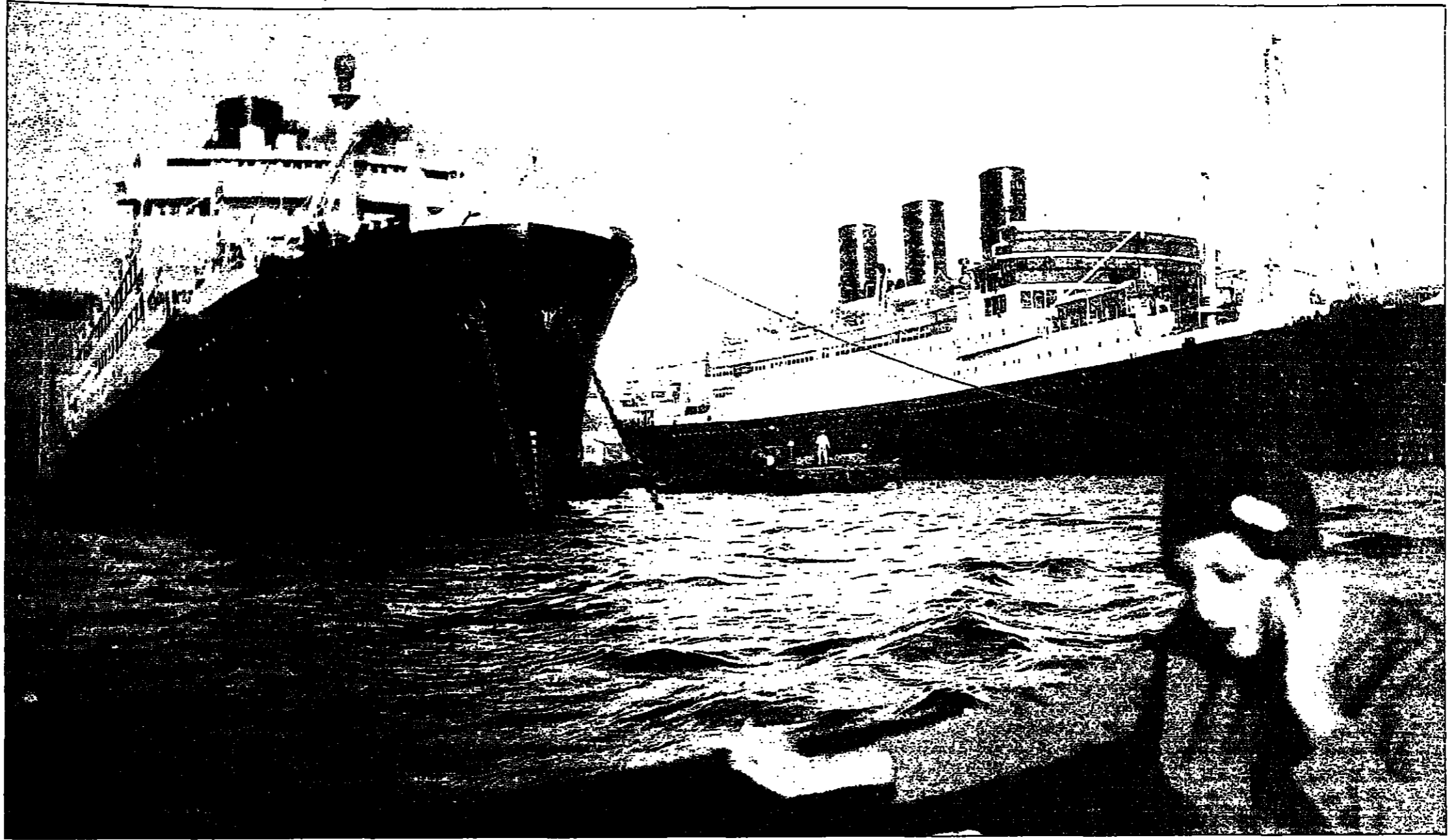
Worth more than a thousand

Magnum
photographer
David Hurn
chooses a
spread of
picture books

One of the virtues of photography is that everyone can do it. A weakness is that so many think they do it well. Most pictures could be produced by many other people. This leads to a plethora of repetitive photography books, relying on escapist, exotic, or obscure subject matter to give them any saleability. Yet photography at its best is one of the most exciting art forms of the 19th and 20th centuries. Some sets of pictures have the feel of authority: a simple subject matter approached in a way that could not be bettered. The most interesting photography must both depict and imply; there should be a sensation of strangeness inside the familiar. Most great photographs have a quality beyond the visually obvious. That is what I am looking for.

Jacques Henri Lartigue: *Photographer* (Thames and Hudson, £45; ISBN 0 500 54226 0) is one of the few flawless books I have ever seen. It does justice to a great photographer, with a wonderful choice of pictures ranging from the well known to many I have never seen before. The book is beautifully printed and elegantly presented by Robert Delpre, the French editor and designer. It is a perfect epitaph from a man of great taste to his dead friend.

Magnum Cinema (Phaidon, £19.95; ISBN 0 7148 3772 5), now in softback, is a must for anyone interested in film. It is full of intimacy without intrusion, with uncontrived pictures from a time when the stars were often friends of the photographers, allowing illuminating pictures — unlike today, when actors are dominated by the demands of their public relations advisers. History tells us that it is the visually simple that lasts, especially when it seems to result from ease of execution. *The Plant Kingdoms of Charles Jones* (Thames and Hudson, £16.95; ISBN 0 500 54222 8) is the surprise gem of the year. When looking through the



Bibi in Marseilles, 1928, taken from Jacques Henri Lartigue: *Photographer*. "The most interesting photography must both depict and imply," says David Hurn. "There should be a strangeness inside the familiar."

book the word beauty is unavoidable. Sadly, it is now a word which prompts mocking. Apart from the fact that Charles Jones was a gardener, the only reference to him as a photographer is a single advertisement in *Popular Gardening* in the early 1900s, offering to take pictures of people's gardens at half-a-crown an image. The pictures are mainly of vegetables with smaller sections of fruits and flowers. *One image of Bean Runner* is a picture I covet. Photography must thank the eye of Sean Sexton for discovering such a superb collection.

In the 1830s a dozen men on various continents, independently and simultaneously, dis-

covered what we now call photography, the result of a quest for an exact representation of nature. Fox Talbot in *The Pencil of Nature* photographed a hay-stack and discussed fine detail. The great American landscape photographers, Jackson and O'Sullivan talked of "meticulous exactitude"; and later Arthur Mole photographed 22,000 people as a group to look like the Statue of Liberty. Photography was and still is, the ideal tool for revealing what things look like.

Andreas Gursky, *Photographs from 1984-98* (Art Data, £39.95; ISBN 0 948835 265) continues the tradition of photography to capture fine detail. Photographers make dis-

cerning choices from the myriad of possible subjects in the world. They say: "I find this interesting, significant, beautiful or of value." Gursky chooses to shoot from afar, carefully controlling the timing of the exposure so that both light and flow produce a balanced whole. Looking at the pictures as a photographer, not an academic, I learn so much about the human condition. They comment on our insignificance in a vast world where we are dominated by our environment.

For Most Of It I Have No Words is by Simon Norfolk (Dewi Lewis, £30; ISBN 1 899235 66 3). All art is the affirmation of universal human

concerns. The subject of this book is genocide linked to landscape — and here, perhaps, "concern" is not enough. In the desire to find a new approach the worry is whether style overpowers content. Perhaps it is the presentation that causes doubts. Small prints in the middle of white space and very light grey titles seem almost too tentative and laboured. Are the pictures the same? I am not sure. It is a

book that I wish to own but will reserve final judgment until after many viewings. The camera is the entry ticket to a million worlds. One of these strange, almost cult worlds is the BBC's shipping forecast. In *The Shipping Forecast* (Zelda Cheate Press, £19.95; ISBN 1 899823 02 6), Mark Power has used the list of weather zones as an excuse to make an inventive visual essay. He is one of our best pho-

tographers. The book is deservedly in its third printing. The perfect stocking filler is *Hugs & Kisses* (Abeville Press, £6.95; ISBN 0 7892 0427 4). This pocket-sized book contains over 200 pictures and every one a delight. I must declare an interest when viewing *Sergio Larraín's London 1958-59* (Dewi Lewis, £12.95; ISBN 1 899235 71 X). My own photographic career blossomed after a chance

encounter with Sergio in 1959. We became close friends. He more than any other explained to me the magic in photography. A couple of prints from his series on Chilean "children of the streets" are prized possessions in my collection. This book lives up to my hopes. If I was a poet I would write a poem about every picture. Richard Cork on the year's best art books, page 5.

A fine balance of friendship

Rachel Campbell-Johnston finds more ice than fire in an Oxford tale

Imagine that Sebastian Flyte had never vomited through Charles Ryder's window. Charles might never have met him. And *Brideshead Revisited* would have been all about Collins instead of the "embryo don and man of solid learning" who was Charles's first friend. To imagine this is to imagine an Oxford novel rather like that by Keith Owenden. His *The Greatest Sorrow* moves to the measured pace of academe.

After 12 years of research, Philip Leroux, a philosophy don, has completed a biography of the 19th-century political thinker Alexander Herzen. But as he signs and dates the final page, downstairs, underneath a "swan-white college coverlet", Moser, his friend and colleague of 22 years lies dead. "The one brought to life just as the other expires, a life for a life, a past for a future, a launch for a wreck," writes Owenden. These are the subtle transitions which he probes in a novel which goes beyond an intimate study of a male friendship to explore the interconnections between biography and life, knowledge and wisdom, relationships and identity.

Owenden broaches these ideas with the confidence of maturity. He despises laxness of mind, the clichés of the "looser sort of fiction writer". His is an intellectually rigorous novel, written in lucid prose, structured rather in the style that Alexander Herzen wrote his own memoirs: a personal narrative, interspersed with sharp vignettes, and philosophical

THE GREATEST SORROW

By Keith Owenden
Hamish Hamilton, £15.99
ISBN 0 241 13977 5



and historical digressions. Owenden brings a dispassionate mind to his theme. Like an archaeologist, he brushes aside the sands of custom, to reveal a pared-down truth. And the reader trusts him, confident that each examined idea is part of a whole, part of some buried skeleton of knowledge with which the author is familiar.

But for some, Owenden may well be too much in sympathy with Moser, his principle character. He is "not a passionate debater, but a subtle and patient one". And this means that, however meticulously he traces the lives of the two academics and explores their ideas, the fire which would give them spirit is missing. Graham Greene may have suggested that an author needed a splinter of ice in his soul. Despite his charming ending, Owenden maintains a glacial detachment throughout.

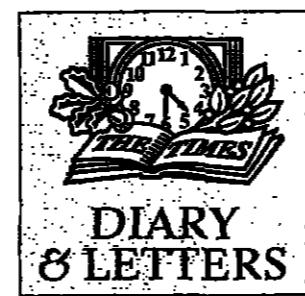
Beryl begins

WHAT has Beryl Bainbridge been doing since she failed to win the Booker Prize? In the robust style of Dr Johnson, she has been busy wiping away her friends' tears — and starting work on a new novel about the great Doctor and his friend Mrs Thrale.

Poetic outrage continues to mount following OUP's axing of its poetry list. Sean O'Brien, Jo Shapcott and Helen Dunmore have, with 35 other poets including Paul Muldoon, Tony Harrison and Carol Ann Duffy, written to express their dismay at the loss. As for the long list of signatures: "we could have got 100 more," Dunmore says.

CHICAGOAN Bob Jacobson writes from North London to defend his native city from the Literary Editor's barbs in her review of Simone de Beauvoir's *American Day by Day* (Books, November 26): "I grew up literally beside the lake in the 1940s and 1950s and her description of the sun on the water and gliding white sailboats really was (and is) Montrose and Belmont harbors — in good weather, of course. I appreciate the squalor of West Madison and also your acknowledgment of 'that fine city on the lake' but I feel such a joy in telling you that my pleasure in the Côte d'Azur originated in the silk and diamonds of Lake Michigan."

ROBERT TWIGGER has won the 1998 William Hill Sports Book of the Year award for *Angry White Pyjamas: An Oxford Poet Trains with the Tokyo Riot Police* (Indigo, £6.99). He gets £7,500 in cash, £1,000 in free



bits and a day at the races. But he is on an Indonesian island hunting pythons and hoping to win an even bigger prize — the \$50,000 Roosevelt prize for capturing a snake over 30 feet.

ALL those people who bought Dava Sobel's *Longitude* can now go one better. The original journal of John Harrison, the man who in the 1760s solved the problem of how to determine longitude at sea, is coming up for sale at Sotheby's on December 17. Prepare to spend £100,000-£150,000.

COALS to Newcastle? A copy of Maryam Sachs's book about the moon (John Murray), was taken up to the Mir space station by astronaut Sergei Awdajew and Gennadi Padalka and signed in space.

WOULD P.J. O'Rourke tempt you to do your Christmas shopping? He is one of the authors signing books at branches of Waterstone's open late tonight throughout London. Robert Harris and Nigella Lawson will be in Kensington and there'll be mince pies in Trafalgar Square. Phone for details on 0181-742 3800.

Critics make their Christmas choices

IN metro THIS SATURDAY: critics choose their favourite books of 1998. ALSO: music books and audio books. NEXT THURSDAY: Beryl Bainbridge, Peter Ackroyd, Jeanette Winterson and Roger Scruton reveal their year's choices

GEORGE SOROS

THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM



George Soros, the legendary financier and philanthropist will debate the causes of, and offer bold solutions to, the current global meltdown at this LSE debate next Monday, December 7, at 7pm.

Chaired by Professor Anthony Giddens, director of the LSE, Soros will be challenged by Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, and Anatole Kaletsky, Associate Editor of *The Times*.

- Listen to the debate
- Follow the serialisation of his latest book
- Know the man, know his secrets

www.the-times.co.uk

Bank not entitled to restitution of electronic transfer

Lloyds Bank plc v Independent Insurance Co Ltd

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Waller. [Judgment November 26]

A bank which made an electronic interbank transfer with the authority of its customer to discharge a debt owed by its customer to the payee was not thereafter entitled to restitution of the payment on the ground that the transfer was made under a mistake of fact, namely that cheques previously paid into its customer's account represented cleared funds sufficient to cover the transfer.

Since the payment was made for good consideration in that it was paid to, and did, discharge a debt owed by the customer to the payee, the payee could not be said to have been unjustly enriched at the bank's expense.

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the defendant, Independent Insurance Co Ltd, against a judgment given by Lord Justice Waller in the High Court, Central London County Court on November 27, 1997, in favour of the plaintiff, Lloyds Bank plc, in the sum of £107,387.90 plus interest.

The judge held that Lloyds had transferred money by Clearing House Automated Payment System ("CHAPS") to Independent Insurance Co Ltd at the Royal Bank of Scotland by mistake.

Independent's defence was that Lloyds made the interbank electronic transfer with the authority of the bank's customer, WF Insur-

ance Services Ltd, from whose account the transfer was made, and in discharge of a debt due to Independent. The judge held that WF had not authorised the transfer and ordered restitution by Independent to Lloyds.

Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Andrew Lenon for Independent; Mr Mark Haggood, QC and Mr Michael Kay for Lloyds.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said WF was an insurance agent authorised to receive premiums on Independent's behalf and obliged to remit them net of commission. At the beginning of 1995 WF owed at least £162,387.90 to Independent in respect of premium received.

In July 1996, after a cheque for that amount drawn on WF's account at Royal Bank of Scotland had been dishonoured, WF's controller, Mr Beckingham, faxed Independent stating that he had arranged for WF's new bankers, Lloyds, to send the money by CHAPS.

On July 12, WF instructed Lloyds by fax: "As advised, a sum of £162,387.90 will arrive by CHAPS today. As soon as this happens, please send £162,387.90 by CHAPS to [Independent's account at] Royal Bank of Scotland."

No CHAPS payment arrived on July 12 or at all. Instead, on July 14 Mr Beckingham went to Lloyds in person and made three cheques totalling £172,131.97. The value of the cheques was credited to WF's account as cleared funds.

Mr Beckingham told the branch manager, Mr Flagg, that he would

like the payment to Independent made as soon as possible. Mr Flagg replied that payment could be made only after the cheques had cleared, three days later, on July 19. It was on that conversation that express authorisation depended.

At 10.26am on July 19, Lloyds paid £162,387.90 by CHAPS to Independent's account at RBS. The payment was made because two Lloyds employees mistakenly believed the value of the cheques entered on WF's account on July 14 represented cleared funds. In fact one of them, for £166,000, had been dishonoured.

Lloyds immediately made a contra-entry on WF's account, debiting the value of that cheque, and putting the account substantially into overdraft.

The argument on the appeal centred on *Barclays Bank Ltd v Simms* (1980) QB 671, 695 in which Mr Justice Robert Goff summarised the applicable principles as follows:

"(1) If a person pays money to another under a mistake of fact he is prima facie entitled to recover it. (2) His claim may however fail if (a) the payer intends that the payee shall have the money at all times, whether the fact be true or false, or (b) the payment is made for good consideration, in particular if the money is paid to discharge a debt and does discharge a debt owed to the payee for a principal on whose behalf he is authorised to receive the money."

Mr Haggood argued that the judge rightly held that Lloyds was not authorised by WF to make the payment; and even if it was, that did not prevent Lloyds from automatically being barred from a restitutionary remedy.

The judge held that Lloyds was outside the authority vested in Lloyds by WF. He concluded by reference to the express wording of the fax of July 12 that the initial instruction to Lloyds made it a condition precedent to any onward payment for the account of Independent that £162,621.61 should have arrived and been credited to WF's account with Lloyds.

The debt being discharged, Independent gave full consideration for the payment; or alternatively, Independent had changed its position, and on either basis had a defence to restitution.

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By the exchanges between Mr Beckingham and Mr Flagg on July 14, the payment was made "as soon as possible" as he held, merely a variant on "as soon as this happens" in the fax, meaning as soon as possible without exposing WF to the risk of an onward payment not covered by cleared inward funds.

The judge was clearly right to approach the question of actual authority by reference to the question whether WF had stipulated some condition precedent to Lloyds being entitled to pay on WF's behalf the sum which it was otherwise required to pay RBS for Independent's account.

The question was whether the request to transfer money was qualified. If it was, and the qualification was unfulfilled, then Lloyds would have acted without authority.

If not, the situation became analogous to the drawing of a cheque, which, if not backed by funds in the account, constituted a request by the drawer to provide overdraft facilities; and Lloyds, even if it had the right to refuse to effect the payment in the absence of funds, would be acting within its mandate if it did pay and then debited the account as if overdraft facilities had been agreed.

A clear distinction had to be drawn between what Lloyds was entitled to do within its mandate from WF and what it was obliged to do as a result of the instructions it was accepting.

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precedent on Lloyds' authority to pay as opposed to a recognition of the reality of the situation, that until funds were received Lloyds would not pay.

But however the fax was construed, by July 14 a different situation had arisen. WF had at least the three cheques and thus an expectation of funds. It wanted Independent paid "as soon as possible" and the context in which those words appeared in Mr Flagg's evidence, to the best of my recollection, he did not ask me to make payment that day; demonstrated the illegitimacy of construing that phrase as meaning as soon as possible without exposing WF to the risk of an onward payment not covered by cleared funds.

Lloyds was informing Mr Beckingham that it could not pay until the cheques had been cleared on July 19; it was making clear that it was not obliged to do so and that it was imposing a qualification on its obligation. It was not a qualification being imposed on Lloyds' authority by Mr Beckingham.

It followed that Lloyds, in making the payment on July 19, was not acting outside its actual authority.

Restitutionary remedy. Mr Haggood boldly submitted that condition 2(b) in the formulation set out by Mr Justice Goff in *Barclays v Simms* was inaccurately expressed, and indeed that, since in that case Barclays was found to be unauthorised, the words "or by a third party by whom he is authorised to discharge the debt" in condition 2(b) were otiose.

For the university not to apply its mind to the question of whether its employee was or was not making a mistake in his choice of retirement date showed that it was heedless of the employee's financial interests to a trust damaging degree.

The fact that the university's omission to warn Mr Eytell was not the result of a deliberate decision was, he submitted, irrelevant if the omission, viewed objectively, had the significant adverse consequences for Mr Eytell as it did.

Mr Simmonds submitted that an inadvertent omission by an employer to do something could never amount to a breach of the implied duty.

His Lordship said that it was true that the decided cases in which breach of the implied term had been established all involved deliberate conduct on the part of the employer. Moreover, the terms in which the duty had been expressed had consistently been in the negative form of prohibiting conduct calculated or likely to produce destructive or damaging consequences rather than as positively enjoining conduct which would avoid such consequences.

Nevertheless, His Lordship did not think that the principle underlying the implication of the term necessarily excluded the possibility that, in appropriate circumstances, there could be a positive as opposed to a merely negative content, although such a holding would involve extending the existing law.

The recognition of a duty to advise an employee that his decision was not financially advantageous had potentially far-reaching consequences for the employment relationship and His Lordship said that it was necessary to examine how such a positive obligation would cohere with other default obligations implied by law in the employment contract.

In His Lordship's view, the answer was no.

In the specific area of giving advice to employees on their pension rights, the further the courts had gone in recognising such a default obligation was in *Scally v Southern Health and Social Services Board* (1992) 1 AC 294 where the term implied was a duty to take reasonable steps to bring the existence of a valuable right to the attention of the employee.

Scally provided no support for Mr Eytell's claim. He was not entitled to the assistance of his employer's pension rights. The fact that *Scally* provided no support for Mr Eytell's contention tended to support rather than assist the proposition that the implied duty of good faith included within it a positive obligation to give advice.

In addition, the authorities on the duties of pension fund holders to give advice to beneficiaries did not encourage the imposition of such an obligation on them: see *Miller v Stagliano* (1992) 2 All ER 449. It was difficult to see why an employer should be under a higher default obligation.

In His Lordship's judgment, the authorities neither compelled nor justified him in holding that the general duty of good faith to Mr Eytell was extended.

Solicitors: Travers Smith Braithwaite, John Yolland.

Damages for negligent survey No duty over pension calculation

Patel and Another v Hooper & Jackson (a Firm)

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Mummery. [Judgment November 10]

The measure of damages payable by a surveyor for a negligent house survey made for mortgage purposes and which was relied on by the purchaser, was the diminution in value together with additional amounts in respect of any special features.

The surveyor's failure to report a property as being uninhabitable entitled the purchaser to recover the reasonable costs of obtaining himself from his purchase, including the cost of alternative accommodation, but not also an additional amount for past and future mortgage interest and endowment policy premiums.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing in part an appeal by the respondents, Hooper & Jackson, from the judgment of Mr Recorder Collins, Essex, QC, sitting on appeal in the High Court in August 1996 awarding damages to the plaintiffs, Dr Umang Jashbhai Patel and Mrs Stella Patel, that included the reasonable costs of alternative accommodation, but not also an additional amount for past and future mortgage interest and endowment policy premiums.

Mr Daniel Worsley for the surveyors; Mr Andrew Marsden for the purchasers.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the dispute was about the amount of damages to be awarded against surveyors who made a negligent overvaluation of a house for mortgage purposes on which the purchaser relied.

The surveyors' value was in the region of £90,000, whereas its actual value was £65,000. The purchasers said the house was uninhabitable and that they were unable to re-sell it. They never moved in and remained in this city.

The plaintiffs first time purchasers found the house, 35 Selkirk Road, Tooting, London in 1988 when the domestic property mar-

ket was still active and house prices increased. They were offered a loan of £85,000 by the Britannia Building Society.

The defendants, estate agents and chartered surveyors, were instructed to make a house buyers' report and valuation. They realised they were providing professional services to the building society and to the plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs found that the plaintiffs relied on the house buyers' report and valuation in purchasing the house and that it did not accurately describe the condition of the house; it ought to have been described as so neglected as to fall into the severely dilapidated category and valued at £65,000.

The plaintiffs, he found, had to pay for alternative rented accommodation, not having the resources to renovate the house or purchase another home of their own.

The plaintiffs claimed £25,250 on a diminution in value basis; in addition with general damages for inconvenience and discomfort, and special damages of some £45,000 mainly in respect of costs of alternative accommodation.

During the trial of the action, with agreement on the suggestion of the recorder, the plaintiffs renounced their statement of claim to make an alternative claim for reimbursement of mortgage interest payments (£60,000), the premiums paid for an endowment policy (£5,500) and household insurance (£5,500).

In his judgment, the recorder made three findings which were of great importance to the view he took on damages:

1 The plaintiffs, if properly advised as to the true state of repair would not have entered into the acquisition of the property.

2 They were unable to sell the house between 1988 and the trial, and

3 That the house was uninhabitable until structural defects and damp problems had been attended to.

The recorder awarded each of the plaintiffs general damages of £2,000 in recognition of their years of living in discomfort. In relation

to the other components of his award he made an order in a form which both couples and some respects unprecedented. Whatever the outcome, that order had to be discharged and an award made in conventional form.

What then was the correct measure of damages? Mr Worsley cited from *Jackson & Powell on Professional Negligence* 14th edition (1997) paragraph 3-137:

"With *Phillips v Ward* (1956) 1 WLR 471, *Perry v Sidney Phillips & Son* (1982) 1 WLR 1297 and *Watts v Morrow* (1991) 1 WLR 1421, the Court of Appeal has stated and re-stated that diminution in value is the proper measure of damages in respect of a negligent survey of a house for a private purchaser, whether or not the purchaser has carried out repairs, whether or not the purchaser has retained or sold the property, and whether or not the purchaser has bought the property."

That was a correct statement of the prima facie rule applicable in the present case. The decision of the House of Lords in *Banque Bruxelles Lambert SA v Eagle Star Insurance Co Ltd* (1997) AC 199 had no effect on the prima facie rule in respect of negligent surveys for private purchasers.

That prima facie rule entitled the plaintiffs to recover some £25,000. But the plaintiffs contended that there were special features which entitled them to recover more. They relied on their inability to sell to move into the house or to sell it.

The principle was that the purchaser was entitled by way of additional damages to the reasonable costs of obtaining alternative accommodation until such time as they were able to sell. In principle, the defendant surveyors had purchased some other property and, doubtless, taken on a similar sized mortgage.

The effect of that finding was that the plaintiffs would have expended a similar amount in mortgage interest payments and endowment policy premiums.

On that footing the recorder compensated the plaintiffs for expenditure which they would have incurred in any event. He was wrong to do so.

Instead, he ought to have compensated them for the costs of their alternative accommodation until such time as they were able to sell the house and acquire another in its place.

Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Mummery agreed.

Solicitors: Lloyd Cooper; Bankes Ashon, Bury St Edmunds.

University of Nottingham v Eytell and Another

Before Mr Justice Hart [Judgment November 13]

The implied term of good faith in a contract of employment did not include a positive obligation on an employer to advise that the way in which an employee proposed to exercise his pension rights might not be to his financial advantage.

Mr Justice Hart so held in the Chancery Division allowing an appeal by the University of Nottingham against a determination of the Pensions Ombudsman upholding a complaint made by John Eytell that the university, in its capacity as employer, had been guilty of maladministration in relation to the university's pension scheme.

Mr Andrew Simmonds for the university; Mr Andrew Stafford for the Pensions Ombudsman; Mr Eytell did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE HART said that under the rules of the university's pension scheme Mr Eytell was entitled, with the university's consent, to take early retirement on reaching the age of 60 without actuarial reduction.

His 60th birthday being in July 1994, Mr Eytell opted for the possibility that if he retired in 1994 as to his pension entitlement would be if he were to retire on July 31, 1994.

The quotation supplied was calculated by reference to the average of his salaries for the years 1991, 1992 and 1993 producing an annual pension of £9,371.40.

Armed with that information, which was entirely accurate, Mr Eytell notified the university of his intention to retire and was contemplated on July 31, 1994.

What Mr Eytell had not realised was that he would have been better off had he sought to defer his retirement to the earliest date after July 31. Had he done that, his final pensionable salary would have been calculated as the average of his 1992, 1993 and 1994 salaries which would have raised his income to £5,118. The complaint therefore was that the university had been in fault in not alerting Mr Eytell to the fact that he would have been better off had he made a different choice.

It was not disputed that the university would have been perfectly willing for him to make that choice had he indicated it.

In upholding the complaint, the ombudsman held, inter alia, that the university had been in breach of its general duty of good faith owed to Mr Eytell as his employer by failing to provide him with reasonably sufficient information to enable him to make an informed choice of retirement age.

Mr Stafford submitted that the university's failure to alert Mr Eytell to the significance of the date selected by him was a matter which was likely to severely damage the relationship of trust and confidence between the university and its pension scheme. Mr Eytell was entitled, with the university's consent, to take early retirement on reaching the age of 60 without actuarial reduction.

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What Mr Eytell had not realised was that he would have been better off had he sought to defer his retirement to the earliest date after July 31. Had he done that, his final pensionable salary would have been calculated as the average of his 1992, 1993 and 1994 salaries which would have raised his income to £5,118. The complaint therefore was that the university had been in fault in not alerting Mr Eytell to the fact that he would have been better off had he made a different choice.

It was not disputed that the university would have been perfectly willing for him to make that choice had he indicated it.

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Mr Stafford submitted that the university's failure to alert Mr Eytell to the significance of the date selected by him was a matter which was likely to severely damage the relationship of trust and confidence between the university and its pension scheme. Mr Eytell was entitled, with the university's consent, to take early retirement on reaching the age of 60 without actuarial reduction.

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Bargains of the week: Invigorating south coast walks; mouth-watering continental breaks; exciting Australia offers



A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices

BRITAIN

CHICAGO: the jazz musical featuring murder, greed and corruption among American low life, is combined with the high-life Howard Hotel, in a London Theatrebreak package that is available from Superbreak.

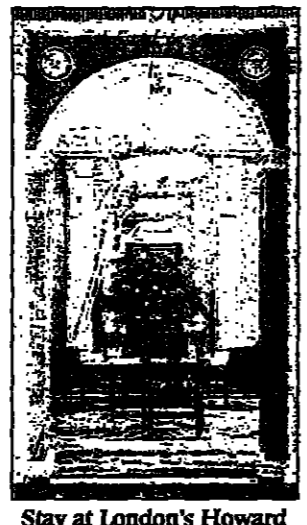
CONNEMARA features in plenty of songs and Irish Ferries Holidays is offering a visit to the region from £149. The package includes return Irish Sea crossings for car and passengers, three nights' bed & breakfast in a Connemara hotel and nights in Dublin on the way out and back. Details: 0990 17000.

SCARBOROUGH with a Caribbean flavour is the unusual prospect for a weekend break from December 11 to 13. A steel band will play in the shopping centre but a traditional Christmas concert will also take place and can be enjoyed on a £60 two-night break with half-board, available from English Rose Hotels. Details: 01723 374374.

THE ENGLISH Riviera might not be at its sunniest this month, but a hotel with a solarium and indoor pool can be visited at bargain prices with Crystal Premier Britain until December 22. The cost of dinner, B&B at the Rainbow International in Torquay has been halved to £30. Details: 0181-390 8513.

COASTAL walks can be planned to help the appetite on a three-night festive break at a small hotel in Rye, East Sussex, which is run in the winter by the owners of the Belle France company. The package costs £226 with full board. Details: 01797 223777.

WINTER FOLLY must be an appropriate name for a Christmas venue and still available from Farm and Cottage Holidays. Set in a North Devon coastal preservation area, it sleeps five and costs £294 from December 21 for a week. Details: 01237 479698.



Stay at London's Howard Hotel and see Chicago

EUROPE

MOUTH-WATERING prices are available in the Mediterranean in the coming days for those who feel they need a break before coping with Christmas. Tony Dawe writes.

Malta for a week from next Tuesday for £99 and Cyprus from Wednesday for £119 are both available on a self-catering basis from Sunset Holidays, with flights from Gatwick. Details: 01204 434441.

THE CANARIES are also included in the bargains: Avo is offering a return flight to Fuerteventura for £49, leaving from Gatwick next Wednesday. Details: 0181-715 1999.

TURKEY - the country not the bird - can be enjoyed with Metak Holidays, which is offering a week's B&B in the coastal resort of Antalya from £399. Fly from Heathrow on December 10. Details: 0171-935 0961.

TAKE the children to Disneyland Paris to enjoy all the Christmas "spectaculars" and be back home in good time for the day itself. That's the offer from Leger, which is running a three-day coach trip from December 17 for £139, with large discounts for youngsters. Two nights' B&B at the theme park and a visit to Paris are included. Details: 01709 839839.

NINE hours afloat in the

English Channel in winter must be of specialist appeal, but if you enjoy being at sea and want to explore St Malo, Mont St Michel or Rennes, VFB Holidays has the package for you. It is offering self-drive mini-breaks to Brittany with return overnight Portsmouth-St Malo crossings and 12 hours ashore for £82. The price includes four-course dinners at sea and a private cabin. Details: 01242 240310.

HEAR the Pope's Christmas message live in St Peter's Square in the suggestion from Kirker Holidays, which is offering three nights in Rome from December 23 or 24 from £530. Included are return flights from Heathrow, B&B at a four-star hotel, a festive meal and a sightseeing trip. Details: 0171-231 3333.

GRAN DORADA's holiday villages in The Netherlands and Germany are still available over Christmas from EuroVillages. Four-night breaks from December 24, based on four sharing, cost £434 (a week costs £528) and include Channel crossing for car and passengers. Details: 01606 787776.

CHRISTMAS on the slopes is still possible with Ski Esprit, which has chalets available in leading French resorts from December 20. Prices start at £488 for a week for adults and £99 for children, with flights from Stansted and half-board. Details: 01252 616789.

French alpine holidays, which include Christmas Day but end on Boxing Day, are on offer from Lunn Poly for £249. Fly from Glasgow on December 19 for this Thomson self-catering holiday in Flaine. Details from Lunn Poly Holiday Shops.



SHOPPING trips to the Continent in time for Christmas are still being promoted, but there are more interesting things to see and do in Arras, where Eurotours is arranging two-night breaks travelling with Eurostar, in a central four-star hotel for the weekend of December 11 to 13 for £169 and midweek from December 15 for £149. Details: 0181-289 8889.

THE SAME can be said of Arras, the ancient market town in northern France, where Intravel is offering a one-night stay on December 18 for just £45, including Eurotunnel or ferry crossing for car and passengers. Details: 01653 628662.

AUSTRALIA

FLIGHT DEALS for travel before Christmas are flooding the market and some of the best fares are to Australia and the United States.

Austravel, which has space on Airtrons International flights to Sydney from Gatwick on Tuesday and from Manchester on Wednesday, has cut the return fare to £399. Details: 0171-734 7755.

Los Angeles for £265 return, Denver for £275 and Vancouver for £322 are on offer from Bridge The World for departures until the middle of this month, all with scheduled airlines. Details: 0171-916 0998.

if you can wait until Christmas Day or later to fly, Bon Voyage is offering Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Philadelphia and Washington, all for £225 return. Your visit must include a Saturday and you must return within a month. Details: 0800-316 0194.

BOSTON is also on offer from Thomas Cook Holidays, which has three-night breaks in the city for £363, including return flights and B&B at the Tremont Hotel, which is near business and entertainment venues. Discount vouchers and local travel form part of the package, available for flights until December 14 and again from January 5. Details: 01733 418100.

AMBRIDGE's wedding of the year is fast approaching and Shula and Alistair of The Archers are planning a honeymoon on Nevis. If you are so wrapped up with them that you want to experience the island yourself, Caribbean Connection is offering a week at the exclusive Mompeller Plantation Inn in the new year:

AFRICA

DUBAI promises sunshine as well as good shopping at this time of year and Somak Holidays has a five-night break to the Gulf state from December 13 for £799. The price includes return BA flights from Heathrow and accommodation in apartments with a swimming pool and sauna. Details: 0181-423 3000.

A RED SEA resort for a week from £189, including return flights and B&B, is available from Regal Holidays. Sharm el Sheikh is famous for diving holidays and prices for a five-day course start from £160. Fly out on December 11. Details: 01353 778096.

KENYA for a fortnight, including Christmas for £428, is the bargain offer from Eclipse. But be prepared to leave home early and fly back two days after Christmas. The holiday begins from Gatwick on December 13 and includes half-board at an hotel on the coast. Details: 0990 010203.

JORDAN for Christmas and new year is available from Bales Worldwide. Fly from Heathrow on December 21 or 28 for a week exploring Amman, Wadi Rum and the ancient city of Petra. The trips cost £745, including sightseeing and entrance fees. Details: 01306 876881.

See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays

AMERICANA BEST OFFERS!! GO AMERICANA BUSINESS CLASS SAVE OVER 50%. Includes a large table of flight routes and prices for various destinations like London, Paris, Rome, etc.

Airline Network ~ the way to go! DELTA WORLDWIDE. Drop in for fantastic fares. Includes a table of fares for destinations like New York, Los Angeles, Sydney, Perth, Auckland, etc.

AB AIRLINES BEST EVER OFFER. Global Flights. Includes a table of fares for destinations like London, Paris, Rome, etc.

CUBA. £579. All-inclusive holiday to Cuba.

JETLINE. £599. Holiday to the Maldives.

FLIGHT SEARCHERS. Comprehensive flight search service.

Charter. 10% OFF CAR HIRE. Includes a table of car hire rates.

CITIBOND. 20-23 December. London to 17th Dec. Includes a table of flight rates.

Jetworld. CHEAPEST FARES AVAILABLE. Includes a table of flight rates.

FLIGHT CENTRE. ATOL 3112. Worldwide discount flights.

ZURICH. Flights to London with Edelweiss Air. Includes a table of flight rates.

Overseas Express. BEST OFFERS WORLDWIDE. Includes a table of flight rates.

GLOBAL. WORLDWIDE SCHEDULED FLIGHTS. Includes a table of flight rates.

USA & CANADA. TRUCK COACH TOURS. MOTOR HOMES. SELF DRIVE TOURS. Includes a table of tour prices.

Flight World. Bangkok £345. Includes a table of flight rates.

benz. NEW YORK LITE BANGKOK £399. Includes a table of flight rates.

FAR EAST HOLIDAYS. HAWAII £439. Includes a table of flight rates.

MAJOR USA. BEST OFFERS. Includes a table of flight rates.

TRAILFINDERS. MORE THAN JUST LOW COST FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE. Includes a table of flight rates.

Chris McGrath on a jockey working hard to rebuild his season after an early setback

Triumph over adversity is key to Murphy's lore

IN a precarious walk of life, Timmy Murphy appears to have mastered the art of taking one step backwards merely as a prelude to two extravagant steps forward. Though recently deposed as stable jockey to Paul Nicholls, Murphy has been irrepensible form and yesterday signed a contract to ride for the principal patrons of Jim Old's yard, Wally Sturt and George Ward.

Behind only McCoy, Johnson and Dunwoody - confirms him a born survivor. For while his robust and honest spirit has been examined on the racecourse itself, notably in his use of the whip, it is in the sphere of labour relations that he has really had to strike back.

On the face of it, 60 winners last season represented a marvellous return for the new alliance. That he was suspended for no fewer than 52 days, however, including when See More Business won the King George VI Chase, is a measure both of his achievement and the problems that menaced its consolidation. "I put the trouble with the stick down to trying too hard," Murphy said. "I'm still riding much the same but changing little things over the months. You can't turn it round in a couple of weeks."

The refinements have preserved, unadmittedly, the aggressive rhythm that is his hallmark and Murphy increasingly resembled the finished article as he shared a flying start to this season with Nicholls. Then John Keyhley, part-owner of the yard's best horse, declared that the teenager Joe Tizzard would ride See More Business. "That obviously rocked the boat and at the end of the day it was decided that it made more sense for Joe to ride No 1," Murphy said. While protesting that he still gets on well with Nicholls, he acknowledges the hurt.



Murphy is making a speciality of turning disappointments to his advantage

Thompson enters Meagher territory

By CRAIG LORD

IN ONE of those great moments in sport, where stunned silence fills the void between the stopping of the clock and the roar of the crowd, Jenny Thompson, of the United States, sliced another a second off the world short-course 100 metres butterfly record at the World Cup meet in Texas.

Thompson's time, 56.90sec, was 0.85sec inside the world record that she set to win the world short-course championship in 1997. Her first-half split of 26.51sec compared with 27.01sec in 1997.

"I have no idea how I did that," the 25-year-old from Dover, New Hampshire, said at College Station, Texas, on Tuesday night. One has to go back to 1958 and Dawn Fraser, among women, and 1922 and Johnny Weissmuller, among men, to find a 100 metres world record broken by more than 0.8sec, be it in pools of 50 metres (long-course) or 25 metres (short-course).

Thompson, who wore a mid-thigh Speedo bodysuit for the first time in competition, said: "I powered yesterday. I'm not shaved down or tapered. If I can do that now, think what I can do when I'm prepared to swim fast?"

Her time includes the first serious threat to the long-course butterfly records of American Mary T. Meagher, whose 1981 standards over 100 and 200 metres are the longest surviving world marks. When Thompson won the world 100 metres long-course title in January, her 58.46sec was the second-fastest time ever behind Meagher's 57.93sec.

Times are between 1sec and 1.5sec slower in an Olympic long-course pool, partly because there are fewer turns, offering fewer fresh impulses of the wall and less momentum respire from muscle fatigue. Some believe that comparisons between long and short-course racing are invalid because the United States has not previously taken short-course seriously. However, since the World Cup has been extended to 12 rounds, with two in North America, higher standards are assured.

World Cup format gives Spice concern

By CATHY HARRIS

CHRIS SPICE, the performance director of the English Hockey Association, is not overjoyed at the decision by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) to increase the number of teams from 12 to 16 for all future men's and women's World Cups, which are staged every four years.

Instead of two groups of six teams, the new format has four pools of four playing in a round-robin format. In the second round, there will be four pools of four - two comprising the top two teams from each first-round pool and the other two made up of the bottom two teams. The third round will involve cross-pool classification, followed by matches to decide final positions.

Qualification for the World Cup will also change, with the hosts, defending champions, five continental cup winners, between two and four teams from the previous Olympic Games, based on rankings, and seven from a qualifying tournament making up the 16 countries.

WINDSOR

THUNDERER
12.40 Studest, 1.10 Hawaiian Youth, 1.40 Slipstream, 2.10 River Leven, 2.40 Queen's Ride, 3.10 Tompetoo, 3.40 Nordansk.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

12.40 FAREWELL NOVICES HURDLE

(Div 1: £2,100; 2m) (13 runners)
1-15 GREGORY DMT 10 (D) R Henderson 6-11-11 M A Fitzgerald 65
2-16 CHINCHAGROCK 23 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-17 CONVEYER 21 (D) R Henderson 6-11-11 M A Fitzgerald 65
4-18 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-19 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-20 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-21 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-22 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-23 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-24 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-25 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-26 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

1.10 ROUS AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,815; 2m 5f) (8)
1-27 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-28 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-29 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-30 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-31 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-32 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-33 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-34 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

1.40 FAREWELL NOVICES HURDLE

(Div 1: £2,092; 2m) (14)
1-35 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-36 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-37 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-38 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-39 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-40 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-41 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-42 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-43 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-44 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-45 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-46 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
13-47 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
14-48 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

2.10 BDO STDY HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,418; 2m 5f) (5)
1-49 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-50 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-51 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-52 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-53 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

2.40 OMEGA HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,793; 2m) (4)
1-54 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-55 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-56 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-57 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

3.10 HUGGY BEAR NOVICES CHASE

(£3,020; 3m) (10)
1-58 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-59 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-60 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-61 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-62 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-63 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-64 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-65 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-66 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-67 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

3.40 NORWICHIAN BLUE HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,652; 2m 4f) (13)
1-68 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-69 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-70 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-71 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-72 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-73 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-74 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-75 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-76 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-77 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-78 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-79 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
13-80 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

Wolverhampton

Going: standard
12.50 (R), Royal Cascade (W) Holiday.

LEICESTER

THUNDERER
1.00 Sadler's Secret, 1.30 Sars Delight, 2.00 Ballroom Princess, 2.30 Camritov, 3.00 Burundi, 3.30 Bowfield Court.

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES) SIS

1.00 BEGINNERS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

(£3-Y-O; £3,071; 2m) (18 runners)
1-81 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-82 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-83 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-84 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-85 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-86 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-87 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-88 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-89 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-90 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-91 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-92 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
13-93 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
14-94 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
15-95 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
16-96 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
17-97 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
18-98 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

1.30 JOHN O'GAUNT MAIDEN CHASE

(£3,158; 2m 7f 10yds) (15)
1-99 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-100 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-101 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-102 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-103 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-104 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-105 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-106 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-107 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-108 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-109 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-110 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
13-111 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
14-112 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
15-113 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

2.00 BARKBY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,220; 2m 4f 110yds) (20)
1-114 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-115 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-116 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-117 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-118 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-119 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-120 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-121 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-122 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-123 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-124 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-125 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
13-126 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
14-127 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
15-128 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
16-129 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
17-130 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
18-131 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
19-132 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
20-133 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

2.30 49'S MALLARD PAWNBROKERS HANDICAP CHASE

(£7,200; 2m 4f 110yds) (4)
1-134 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-135 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-136 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-137 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

3.00 KNIGHTON NOVICES HURDLE

(£2,882; 2m) (11)
1-138 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-139 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-140 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-141 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-142 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-143 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-144 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-145 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-146 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-147 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-148 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

3.30 WALTHAM CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HURDLE

(£2,206; 2m) (6)
1-149 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-150 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-151 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-152 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-153 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-154 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

THUNDERER

12.50 North Tyme, 2.20 The Cockertoo, 1.20 Tom Paddington, 2.50 DUNBURY FLYER (nap), 1.50 Pear's Choice, 3.20 King Of Sparta, 3.50 Neat Feet.

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.20 EKEUS.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

12.50 CERIE ABBAS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(Div 1: £2,066; 2m 6f) (13 runners)
1-155 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-156 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-157 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-158 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-159 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-160 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-161 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-162 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-163 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-164 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-165 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-166 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
13-167 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

12.50 CERIE ABBAS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(Div 1: £2,066; 2m 6f) (13 runners)
1-168 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-169 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-170 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-171 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-172 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-173 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-174 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-175 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-176 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-177 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-178 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-179 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
13-180 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

1.20 CHARD JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE

(£3-Y-O; £2,288; 2m) (16 runners)
1-181 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-182 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-183 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-184 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-185 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-186 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-187 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-188 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-189 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-190 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-191 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-192 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
13-193 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
14-194 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
15-195 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
16-196 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

1.50 TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) EBF MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE

(£3,701; 2m) (5 runners)
1-197 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-198 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-199 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-200 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-201 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

2.20 SUNLEY BAY CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,126; 3m 1f 110yds) (7 runners)
1-202 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-203 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-204 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-205 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-206 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-207 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-208 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

2.50 CERIE ABBAS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(Div 1: £2,066; 2m 6f) (13 runners)
1-155 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-156 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-157 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-158 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-159 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-160 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-161 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-162 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-163 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
10-164 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
11-165 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
12-166 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
13-167 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

3.20 SOMERSET HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,202; 2m 5f) (7 runners)
1-209 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-210 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-211 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-212 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-213 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-214 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-215 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51

3.50 MANSTON HANDICAP HURDLE (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (£2,724; 3m) (9 runners)

1-216 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
2-217 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
3-218 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
4-219 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
5-220 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
6-221 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
7-222 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
8-223 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson 51
9-224 HAWKINS 19 (W) Walsby 4-10-12 J G Jackson

SQUASH

Parke and Walker see hopes dashed

FROM COLIN McQUILLAN IN DOHA, QATAR

BRITISH hopes of filling all four places in the top half of the World Open championship quarter-finals were dashed here yesterday when Chris Walker, the England captain, and Simon Parke, the British champion, were defeated in the third round. Walker went down 15-17, 15-13, 15-12, 15-8 to Stefan Casteleyn, of Belgium, who had earlier ended the title defence of Rodney Eyles, of Australia. Parke lost 6-15, 15-11, 13-15, 15-5, 15-11 to John White, who was born in Australia but is now registered as a player with Scotland.

Paul Johnson, the England No 1, emerged in better shape from a scrappy encounter with Del Harris, twice a World Open finalist. Johnson's 8-15, 15-10, 15-10, 15-17, 15-5 victory earned him a quarter-final against Peter Nicol, the No 1 seed, from Scotland, who defeated Billy Huddell, of Australia, 15-13, 15-5, 12-15, 15-12.

"This is a monster of a court," Johnson said. "When you are playing well, it rewards you, but if you are even slightly off, it eats you up." Harris could vouch for that. He was reduced to self-critical humour as he battled to come to terms with the court. "This is so bad, it is becoming embarrassing," he said as Johnson took seven successive points in the fifth game from his errors.

Walker, who grew up on the same Essex courts as Harris, allowed a lead of 11-6 in the second game to slip away after Casteleyn took a three-minute injury break for treatment to a twisted knee and returned to win five successive rallies.

"I spent the whole three minutes knocking the ball about and repeating to myself 'concentrate, concentrate'," Walker explained. "Then Stefan came back on court and started playing squash again while I was still knocking the ball about and repeating 'concentrate, concentrate'."

White can help set up an all-Scottish semi-final if he can stop Casteleyn today and Nicol fulfils his seeding against Johnson.

Results, page 49



Rahman goes through a warm-up routine before a training session with the England Under-18 squad last week. Photograph: Mike Scott

Mohamed Al Fayed is the sugar daddy signing cheques for Kevin Keegan to entice a string of high-price players to Fulham, but it is a home-grown teenager, albeit with an Egyptian surname, who recently became the only present England player at Craven Cottage.

Deena Rahman, 15, was the youngest member of the England Under-18 women's squad, competing in their European age-group championship, that played three matches in the Midlands last week. A draw against Holland and victories over Northern Ireland and the Faeroe Isles saw the home side qualify for a quarter-final against Norway.

For Rahman, who first ran on to the Fulham pitch as a majorite in a junior band eight years ago, it is a part-realisation of her ambition. "My dream is to play for England at Fulham," she said. "I love it here, it's a family club and really friendly."

Her ties to Fulham began with her mother, Dawn, and include her sister, Heba, 18, and brother, Sam, 12. "I tried to play in goal for them about five years ago," Dawn Rahman said, "but I wasn't very good. Their Dad, Maher, who is Egyptian, thinks Deena gets

Rahman pursues dream Cottage

her talent from him. Heba played in defence for the club before she went to study physiotherapy at Keele University and Sam goes to home games if he's not playing for his school.

It is just as well that the all-girl Lady Margaret School in Parsons Green, West London understands football fever. "I had to take a week off to be with the under-18 squad," Rahman said. "I thought they might be a bit funny because I'm doing my GCSEs next year, but they said it was fine and up to me to catch up."

She will change schools next year, in order to study A-level physical education, but the attacking midfielder player has already had an approach from Seton Hall, an American University offering football scholarships. Kelly Smith, formerly of Arsenal, is one player who has moved to the United States. "Women's football is much bigger over there," Rahman said, "but I'm not that

SARAH POTTER



bothered about it at the moment. I'll just see what happens."

Gary Mulcahey, the coach, has galvanised Fulham Ladies, who play in the Greater London Premier League. Like

their male counterparts, they are two steps away from the top flight and anxious to gain promotion. "I think this season it's between us and Watford," Rahman said. "Whatever happens, I hope I don't have to move because I love it here."

Two seasons ago, she did cross London to join Arsenal, one of the best women's teams. "We were going through a rough patch at Fulham," she said. "We didn't have a manager and Arsenal asked me to give it a try. I played bits of the season, but I didn't like it as much."

Hope Powell, the national manager, believes that her young charge will not be forced to move to a leading club. "Deena is a kid with a lot of talent," she said. "That needs to be steered in the right direction and she's based at a good club. We want to gently ease her in, so there's not too much pressure. Technically, she's very gifted, good with the

SAILING

Golding finds the key to taming beast

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT IN CAPE TOWN

THE change in Mike Golding could hardly be more dramatic. Gone are the doubts, the fear that this was all going to end in embarrassment. Instead, the former BT Global Challenge winner is enjoying the fruits of an impressive first-leg victory in the Around Alone race and is ready to take Team Group 4 into the Southern Ocean for the first time.

The Briton started this three-stop solo race round the world feeling the pressure after being shown a clean pair of heels by Giovanni Soldini, of Italy, on the warm-up across the Atlantic and then struggling to get Team Group 4 ready after she was knocked off her cradle in a freak storm before the start. Hardened professionals were predicting that the former Berkshire fireman would be "found out" among experienced Open 60 Formula One drivers such as Soldini and Isabelle Autissier and Marc Thiercelin, of France.

Yet Golding started well, worked hard and made huge advances in his understanding of his boat. He then got the closing routing just right to get to the "Tavern of the Seas" first.

He sets off on Saturday for Auckland in New Zealand with a lead of 2½ hours over Autissier, around ten hours over Thiercelin and three and four days respectively over Josh Hall, of Great Britain, and Soldini, who paid for gambling recklessly with the weather.

Sitting in a characterless dockside cafe below Table Mountain yesterday, Golding could look forward to the next daunting 6,884-mile stage. "We could hardly be in better shape really," he said. "I'm nervous of this next leg, but there are five possible race winners in Class 1 and now two of them are a long way back."

On this leg, I am prepared to lose a few miles to be certain that I'm not going to break anything. If you look at the history of this race, a lot of boats get broken in the first week out of here."

Golding believes that his understanding of how to get the best out of Team Group 4 — particularly in terms of sail plans in different wind strengths and sea conditions — went from about 50 per cent of potential in Charleston to around 75 per cent by South Africa, but he admitted that he is still not in love with his boat. In fact, he does not refer to the extreme Finot-designed 60 as a boat at all.

"It's an animal — it's not a yacht," he said. "It's a tool, a weapon, a piece of equipment, but it's not like the Challenge yacht, a boat for which I could feel genuine affection because it's one that you know will take care of you."

Instead, Golding has what he calls "a healthy respect" for a machine that has the ability to frighten him. He knows from the heavy air sections of the first leg what he is in for on his first "downhill" ride through the Southern Ocean.

"The noise is unbelievable, the motion is unbelievable — you get rattled around like a pea in a tin can. To go on deck and do anything at the mast, you have to crawl — you can't walk because the boat's too unsteady," he said.



Golding, happy with lead

Handwritten note: "The 11:00 SEA"

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Alan Lee says Surrey's young fast bowler has made a striking impact

Tudor shows Australia that pace is not one-sided

Contrary to the received wisdom in these parts, young English fast bowlers are not an unknown phenomenon in Ashes series. Bob Willis was 21 when he first toured Australia, Graham Dilley only 20. Now, another 21-year-old is winning the respect of a nation that is instinctively cynical where England cricket is concerned.

Alex Tudor is very much a child of his time. A black Londoner, the second son of Rajan parents, he has a heavy Cockney accent, a ready smile and a striking resemblance to a young Curtly Ambrose. The similarity pleases him, for West Indies fast bowlers are his role models. It should also please him that any one of them would have been proud to start their Test careers as he has done.

Yesterday, he sauntered into view in baseball cap, T-shirt and trainers.

A new trophy, to be awarded to the winners of the Ashes series, has been commissioned by MCC. It is a Waterford Crystal replica of the original urn, which remains at Lord's.

the uniform of the Nineties. A week ago, he would have looked utterly anonymous, but now his appearance brings the nudges and winks of recognition. Tudor's life has changed in the span of a three-day Test match.

He acknowledges the impact that he has made and the effect it will have on him, but he is a little self-conscious and unsure about this, for he is essentially shy.

Only on the field, with a ball in his hand, does he show a maturity beyond his years.

Tudor could not have had a more challenging debut. England had batted shamefully, and his own side composed itself at No 9 — and he was bowling before tea on the first day with the Australian openers threatening to make the match a mockery.

His fourth ball lifted fiercely and struck Mark Taylor on the arm. The Australia captain hopped and jiggered and Tudor knew he had made his opening point. "I'd got more bounce than he thought I would," he recalled with satisfaction. "It felt good — and things just carried on from there."

Wickets did not come immediately. Indeed, he was given another stern initiation test after lunch on the second day, when Steve Waugh, intent on subduing the upstart, drove him for three successive fours. The way that Tudor responded was the seminal moment of his match, potentially of his career.

"In the past, I'd have got frustrated and started moaning, cussing and blinding, but Steve Bull, our psychologist, has helped me learn to keep calm, to focus on the fact that I've always got more chances than the batsman. I tried never to show that he was on top."

He achieved this so well that, in his next over, he located the perfect length for a ball that came back sharply between bat and pad to hit Waugh's off stump. The memory still makes him grin uncontrollably. "I meant Steve Waugh, one of the best in the world... some way to start."

Tudor had not finished. He completed the family double, dismissing Mark Waugh, caught in the slips, with a ball that left him and, when the innings ran aground as violently as so many of England's, Tudor had taken four wickets in 21 balls. He had achieved.

"This is a little hard for any of us to take in, let alone for Tudor. After all, he had no expectation of coming on this tour and still relates with wonder how he switched on. Cefax on the first Tuesday of September and saw his name on the list."

"I'd only turned in to see if any of my mates had got on the A tour," he said.

His disbelief is understandable, for he missed the second half of the county season with a stress fracture of the foot, the latest in a series of injuries to frustrate him. The selectors



Tudor was one of the few England players with something to smile about after the defeat in Perth

kept faith and Tudor is grateful. "I know people were asking why I was going, saying it was a risk and that I was injury-prone."

This last phrase is almost growled, for Tudor resents nothing more than the charge that he lacks physical and mental resilience.

"When I had a problem with my side, three years ago, I heard people saying that here was a young fellow who didn't really want to play the game."

"It was a lot of nonsense because I couldn't bowl without pain, but it was only when Dave Gilbert came to Surrey (as coach) that it got sorted out and I had the operation to cure it."

Gilbert identified the growing pains of Tudor, who now stands 5ft 5in and weighs almost 15st. He has

an impressive physique and, despite a stiff gait when walking, he bowls like a genuine athlete.

Interestingly, he says that his brother, Raymond, might have been even better but for his own injury woes.

"He's five years older than me and was on the Surrey staff when he suffered a double stress fracture of his back. But for that, he'd most probably be here today, because he was streets ahead of me in bowling."

Both brothers overcame a lack of cricket in their inner-London school and learnt the game from their father, Daryll, who had been asked to have a trial for Barbados before emigrating. Tudor Sr joined the staff of Surrey — in his case, the security staff — at almost the same time as

his youngest son. "I've spoken to him every other day on the tour and he and Mum are coming out for Christmas," Tudor Jr said.

The youngster, who does not smoke or drink, has found a soulmate on tour in Mark Ramprakash. They were paired under England's policy of giving tailend batsmen a personal coach, but they now seem to be inseparable. "I'm helping him with a few little things about his batting, too," Tudor said, giggling.

It is easy to warm to this sunny young man, and though his broad shoulders may have to bear ever more expectation as this tour proceeds, you sense that he possesses the character to cope. He is a good listener, a quick learner and, make no mistake, he can bowl.

ATHLETICS

Hemery aims to question record plan

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

DAVID HEMERY, in his first month as the president of British athletics, flies to Frankfurt tomorrow for what the European Athletic Association (EAA) describes as a "brainstorming meeting". On Hemery's agenda is the chance to quiz his opposite number in Germany over a controversial plan to annul existing world records at the end of next year.

Hemery wants to hear firsthand from Professor Helmut Digel, the president of the German federation, his rationale for starting world records anew from January 2000. Professor Digel, who is considered to be a possible successor to the long-serving Primo Nebiolo as president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), believes that the shadow of drugs hangs over too many records and that a generation of athletes are suffering from reduced motivation as a result.

"Professor Digel thinks that some records held since the Seventies and Eighties have survived probably because of the lack of doping control," a German federation spokesman said yesterday. Professor Digel wants the IAAF congress, the world governing body's decision-making arm, to vote for change at its meeting at the world championships in Seville in August. The IAAF council, a lower authority, decided last month to accept the proposal for discussion in Seville.

When Hemery, himself a former world record-holder, in the 400 metres hurdles, was elected as the first president of UK Athletics two weeks ago, he spoke from the heart on the drugs issue. "I feel sorry that when I see a fine performance, there is that nagging question: 'Gosh, I wonder?'" he said.

As the father of a promising teenage decathlete, Hemery is determined to be in the forefront of the fight against drugs, but he thinks that Professor Digel's plan may be a step too far. Though Hemery remains open to persuasion, Professor Digel may have a hard job convincing the 1968



Hemery: open-minded

Olympic champion to give the proposal British support. "I am open-minded and want to listen to the proposals, but the caution I have is that it almost implies every record is tainted before that date," Hemery said. "That, for me, would be unjust. A second implication is that, by 2000, we would have in place the absolute certainty that everything from then on was clean. That, also, is unrealistic."

"We will try to find ways to make as fair a playing field as possible, but there will always be people who try to find ways around the rules. We cannot hold up our hands and say, after the clean-sheet start, that records set are undoubtedly going to be clean."

Till Luft, the EAA secretary, said that the Frankfurt exercise was designed as "a brainstorming meeting to explore common problems and find solutions."

Germany, Britain, Spain and Sweden are the key countries attending. "The global co-operation view is one I welcome and I am sure this will come up as one of the issues," Hemery said.

Accompanying Hemery to Frankfurt will be David Moorcroft, who was appointed yesterday as the first chief executive of the new British governing body. UK Athletics will run the sport from January 1 after the collapse last year of the British Athletic Federation and the cessation of UK Athletics 98, an interim organisation.

GOLF

Woods encouraged by heavy rain and support

"WHERE is the sun in Sun City?" That is what Tiger Woods wanted to know yesterday as torrential rain soaked the Gary Player Country Club course, where 12 of the world's best golfers meet in the Million Dollar Challenge this week.

Nearly 3in of rain between Tuesday night and yesterday afternoon caused the cancellation of the preceding pro-am event, leaving a line-up that includes Woods, David Duval, Ernie Els, Nick Price, the defending champion, Mark O'Meara, Lee Westwood and Tom Watson idle. Others in the field — regarded as the strongest since the tournament started in 1981 — are Justin Leonard, Jim Furyk, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie and Jesper Parnevik.

With more rain forecast, Tobin Prior, the tournament chairman, said that if the opening round today had to be cancelled, two rounds would be played tomorrow. The tournament, which has total prize-money of \$2.57 million (around £1.6 million), is by invitation only. The winner will receive \$1 million, with the last-place finisher awarded \$100,000.

The tournament will serve as a tune-up for the Americans who will be playing in the Presidents' Cup in Australia next week. It will also give West-

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

wood, of England, the chance to "step a memorable season. He has won ten titles in the past year. Westwood, who has been paired to play with Langer, decided to play here instead of defending his title at the Australian Open.

For Woods, the tournament comes at the end of a modest year by his standards. However, he is still ranked No 1 in the world and the rains will be to his advantage as they are accelerating growth in the rough, favouring long and straight drivers like Woods.

"This is a big advantage for me, being able to fly over trouble," Woods said yesterday.

On Monday, Woods met President Nelson Mandela. He called the experience "unbelievable". The next day, Woods practised and was mobbed by youngsters who regard him as a hero for black South Africans. "It was really neat," he said. "They came in droves."

Price, who has won the event four times and been runner-up three times, said: "It's only a limited field event, but you'll have to play great golf to win here."



Woods allows a local caddy to carry his bag during practice

Thomson wins Faldo's backing

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NICK FALDO yesterday sided with another former Open champion, Peter Thomson, who has been criticised for his reshaping of the Royal Adelaide course, venue for the Australian Open, which takes place this week.

Thomson has lengthened the course, put in more bunkers and narrowed landing zones. One local professional said: "Thomson's lost his marbles. I've got more chance of winning a lottery than staying on a fairway here."

However, Faldo took a different tack. "I have no criticisms of the course. I think it's awesome, it's the most chal-

lenging 18 holes I've played on," he said. "The rough is very thick. In some places, you can miss a fairway by a yard and you're unplayable. You have small greens, which will probably be firm if the wind keeps blowing. On a nice day, 68 or 69 will be a great score, but when it starts to blow, 71, 72 or 73 will probably be fine."

Despite personal problems and the break with David Leadbetter, his long-time coach, Faldo has never lost the belief that he would recapture the form that made him one of the game's fiercest competi-

tors. Indeed, his impressive performance in the World Cup, which he won for England in company with David Carter, has raised hopes that he is close to recapturing his best form. He also feels that his practice sessions are proving more productive. "Ten years ago, I used to hit 1,500 balls a day," he said. "I couldn't do that now."

"Next year, I'm going to play on both the US and European Tours and hopefully play in the Ryder Cup team once again. I've got 11 months of golf booked up and the goals will be just the same — winning as much as possible."

SPORT IN BRIEF

King out as Foster hugs jack

■ **BOWLS:** Paul Foster, the world indoor singles champion, turned on an outstanding display of drawing to the jack to beat Mervyn King, the world No 3, in the first round of the Glasgow Classic at the Kelvin Hall yesterday. He needed only seven ends to complete his 7-2, 7-0 victory and delivered 16 touchers in his 28 bowls, leaving King looking shell-shocked. "I've played a lot worse and won," King said. "I didn't have a lot of luck, but I couldn't believe how well Paul was playing."

■ **ICE HOCKEY:** Cardiff Devils continue their bid to ensure the Sekonda Superleague does not become a one-horse race when they visit Manchester Storm, the leaders, tonight. Cardiff, who are second with two games in hand, closed the gap on Manchester to four points with a 3-2 win at London Knights. However, Manchester's 5-2 victory over London last Sunday extended their league record to 12 successive home wins.

■ **BOXING:** Mike Callahan, the manager of Eamonn Magee, lodged an official complaint with the Commonwealth Boxing Council yesterday after the Ulsterman's one-point defeat by Paul Burke on Monday. Burke, from Preston, lifted the Commonwealth light-welterweight title in Manchester, but there was heavy criticism of the 115-114 verdict of John Kearne, the referee. Callahan said: "You have to accept the referee's decision, but the outcry has been immense."

■ **CRICKET:** Bob Cottam, the England assistant coach in Australia, will continue as the bowling coach at Warwickshire for a third season. The former England pace bowler has accepted an improved deal, which was faxed to him in Perth last weekend.

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CHANGING TIMES

RUGBY UNION

Honest Telfer owns up to error

By ALASDAIR REID

JIM TELFER, the Scotland coach, has always been ruthlessly honest about any mistake that a player might have made. Yesterday, he owned up to making one of his own, admitting that the horde of replacements that he sent on in the closing stages of the World Cup qualifying match against Portugal disrupted the pattern of the side.

It was an unexpected admission, given that he had refused the suggestion in the immediate aftermath of the game, "I now think it may have been the reason why we lost our shape and I accept the responsibility," Telfer said. "The fewer changes you make, the better."

Amidst all the Scottish comings and goings, Portugal scored 11 points, a minor haul against Scotland's 85, but an irritation all the same. Having made two changes to the side, announced yesterday, for the second World Cup qualifier against Spain, at Murrayfield on Saturday, Telfer will clearly be in no rush to make more as the game unfolds.

Willie Anderson, at tight-head prop, and Cameron Mather, in the back row, have been brought in for Dave Hilton and Budge Pountney respectively. In both cases, and knowing that Scotland are virtually assured of qualification, there is an element of experimentation and neither omitted player — both will be on the bench — need feel aggrieved.

There is also a switch on the wings. Kenny Logan and Cameron Murray swapping the positions they occupied against Portugal. John Rutherford, the assistant coach, said that the move was partly a reminder to both players that they should take wider-ranging roles.

Rob Wainwright, the former captain and a replacement against Portugal, drops out of the squad, fuelling rumours that his international career may be drawing to a close.

SCOTLAND: G Townsend, L Logan, J Mather, J Leslie, C Murray, D Hodge, B Pountney, Scotland; W Smith, G Ross, W Anderson, S Murray, D Worr, C Mather, M Leslie, E Piers, Replacement: S Longstaff, A Tait, G Armstrong, B Pountney, S Gimes, D Hilton, S Brookerstone

Skinstad adds extra dimension

Mark Souster meets the young flanker whose exciting skills have enabled him to break into an all-conquering team

SOUTH Africa may not have a royal family, but it does have Bobby Skinstad, the smiling face of a new nation. According to the travelling press corps, at home he is already a superstar, a young man whose image adorns the newsstands and who, at the tender age of 22, appears to have the rugby world at his feet.

Over the past three weeks, Great Britain and Ireland have certainly succumbed. Without doubt, he is a marketing man's dream, a phenomenal athlete and rugby player, blessed with good looks and a boyish charm. Already, he has an agent to negotiate a stream of lucrative sponsorship contracts, while Guinness has appointed him as one of its three ambassadors at the World Cup next year, alongside Francois Pienaar and Jonathan Davies.

Although he cannot escape all the attention and, with it, the potential distractions and pitfalls, he appears to be remarkably unaffected by the demands on his time. Yesterday morning, after giving five television and newspaper interviews, he turned to Alex Broun, the South Africa media manager, and asked: "Is that it?" "The bulk of it," Broun replied, almost embarrassed. Skinstad raised his eyebrows, exhaled and sat down again to repeat his story.

It is one that begins in 1976 in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, his birthplace, before his family — his father is a doctor of Norwegian ancestry — moved to Natal. As a boy at Hilton College, near Durban, the alma mater of Gary Teichmann, he excelled at sport, but rugby was always his first love. He moved effortlessly through the representative ranks — the under-16s in 1995 and under-21s in 1996 and 1997 — by which time, he had moved to Cape Town to study human sciences at Stellenbosch University, where, for the time being, as a professional rugby player, he has had to put his degree on hold.

There are suggestions that, as the youngest, that the attention might be irritating his colleagues, who have been together for the best part of two years and have taken this team to the brink of sporting immortality. He professes to be unaware of any resentment, but is conscious of the need to prove himself as a player and to be accepted by his peers for his performance.

ances, not his looks or reputation. The signs are that he is winning them round, having demonstrated that he is prepared to graft as well as do what he does best, run with the ball to devastating effect.

It comes as no surprise that Laurent Cabannes, the former France flanker, is one of his main influences, someone who he feels epitomises the romance of the game. He accepts, too, that he is having to grow up in the unforgiving glare of the media spotlight, while trying to keep everything in perspective.

"I am developing as a person on the run rather than having time to sort out character flaws," he said. "It isn't easy. I am a fairly quiet guy and quite shy. I cover it up with this happy-go-lucky image."

In the absence of his immediate family for guidance, he looks to Alan Solomons, the Western Province coach and the assistant coach on this tour, as a mentor. For inspiration and succour, he reads books on motivation, the latest entitled: *You Can't Afford The Luxury Of Negative Thought*. It was, he said, written to provide mental strength for the terminally ill, but much of its message he can identify with.

He has Wales to thank for forcing Nick Mallett into changing a winning team and for giving him his chance to prove that he is a worthy Springbok, someone who can bring an added dimension to their game.

His searing pace — he is the third-fastest member of the squad — helped him to score tries against both Scotland and Ireland, but he also relishes the physical aspect of the game, an area that, as a flank forward, he felt that he had to improve upon after the match at Murrayfield. So he went out and topped the tackle count against Ireland.

So what of England, against whom he made his debut as a replacement last November, and who stand in the way of that world record of 18 consecutive international victories? "England will be as physical as Ireland, as fast as Wales and as pressurised as the Scots. They will be the hardest," Skinstad said.

"Personally, I don't feel the pressure of the world record because I haven't really been part of it. I just want to make sure I don't let my team-mates down."

'I am having to develop as a person while on the run'



Skinstad demonstrates his sunny disposition during a training session for the game against England

RUGBY LEAGUE

Ellis Park makes break with tradition

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ELLIS PARK in Johannesburg, the fervent and, until now, jealously guarded home of South African rugby union, is to host the rugby league World Nines here, February and a showcase match between Great Britain and New Zealand on the weekend of November 12.

The staging of the Nines represents a three-year agreement by the Rugby League International Federation (RLIF) with Louis Luyt, who kept his financial stake in Ellis Park when his controversial reign as South African Rugby Football Union (Sarfu) president came to an end earlier this year.

Britain will return home from the Tri-Nations tournament in Australasia next October and November via Johannesburg for the game with New Zealand. The match, the Nines and the Student World Cup in South Africa next year are intended to raise rugby league's profile in the country. Previous attempts encountered opposition from Sarfu under Luyt.

Luyt wants to maximise the use of Ellis Park and has been courting rugby league for several months. Neil Tunncliffe, the Rugby Football League (RFL) chief executive, is convinced that the time is right and the interest genuine.

At the conclusion of its two-day meeting in Sydney, the RLIF gave the go-ahead yesterday to a 16-team World Cup in Britain in 2000, including the breakout of the Britain team into England, Wales and Scotland components. There will also be an Ireland team.

Those players who have recently changed their English allegiance, including second-generation Irishmen, such as Gary Connolly and Adrian Morley, will not be allowed to switch back for the World Cup.

On rule changes, the RLIF ruled that the scoring side will no longer re-start and that the "zero tackle" from kicks downfield will apply only after errors by the opposing side.

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CHANGING TIMES

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This exciting deal from the TGR high-stake game featured four of the regulars, South and East, both international players, each made an instructive error.

Dealer South Love all Rubber bridge

♠ Q74
 ♥ A884
 ♦ J2
 ♣ 8553
 ♠ KJ62
 ♥ 10753
 ♦ 975
 ♣ K4
 ♠ 1053
 ♥ -
 ♦ AKQ108643
 ♣ 92
 ♠ A88
 ♥ KQJ62
 ♦ -
 ♣ AJ1076

W	N	E	S
Wright	Bienstock	Hallberg	Richman
-	-	1H	1H
Pass	2H	4D	4H
5D	5H	Pass	Pass
Double	All Pass		

Contract: Five Hearts doubled, by South. Lost: seven of diamonds.

A spirited auction (a comment which generally implies that at least two players have significantly overbid their hands) resulted in Bobby Richman reaching a decent contract. On the diamond lead he was responsible for the first error when he ruffed low. With East obviously long in diamonds West was likely to have the long trumps. Had declarer ruffed high, (which costs nothing if the trumps break 3-1), after playing a high heart from hand he could later have entered dummy twice in trumps by leading West's ten (also taking his second diamond ruff in hand with an honour).

Richman continued with a top trump from hand and then went to dummy with a heart to the nine, and led the queen of clubs. Hallberg helpfully gave his partner count in the club suit by playing the nine. Wright won, and led a second diamond. Declarer ruffed in hand, cashed his last trump, then went to dummy with the eight of clubs, to draw the last trump, and claim eleven tricks.

Note that if Hallberg does not waste the nine of clubs, there is no entry to dummy to draw the last trump: if declarer leads a spade at any point, West rises with the king and a third round of diamonds puts declarer out of control.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Wrexham games

Today's games from Wrexham are both grandmaster victories, the first by Thorhallsson, of Iceland, the co-winner of the tournament, and the second by a former British champion, Chris Ward.

White: Ward
 Black: Thorhallsson
 Owen's Corning, Wrexham, 1998

Scandinavian Defence

1 e4 d5
 2 end5 Nf6
 3 Nf3 Nbd5
 4 d4 g6
 5 g3 Bg7
 6 Bg2 O-O
 7 O-O c5
 8 dxc5 Nc6
 9 Qc2 Qc7
 10 Q4 Nfb4
 11 e3 Nc6
 12 Be3 Na5
 13 Nc3 Be6
 14 Nd5 Bxd5
 15 cxd5 Nc3
 16 Rd1 Nxd5
 17 Bf4 Qd7
 18 Rd1 Rf6
 19 h4 e5
 20 Kh2 Qd8
 21 h5 Nd7
 22 Ng5 Nd4
 23 Qc4 Rb8
 24 Qa2 Rc2
 25 Be3 Rxd2
 26 Qxb2 Nf3+
 27 Bx3 Bxd2
 28 Rb1 Bxc3
 29 Rb7 Ne5
 30 Bg2 Ng4+
 31 Kg1 Nxe3
 32 Rxe3 Bc1
 33 Re5 Bg5
 34 Rg5 f6
 35 d6 h5
 36 d7 Rf8
 37 Bd5+ Kg7
 White resigns

Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5
 2 Nc3 Nc6
 3 Bb5 Nd4
 4 Bc4 g6
 5 Nge2 Bg7
 6 Qe2 Bg7
 7 O3 e6
 8 f4 Ne7
 9 d3 O-O
 10 Nf3 d5
 11 Bc3 Bc6
 12 e5 Bb6
 13 Bc2 Nc6
 14 O-O Qc7
 15 Bc1 Qc8
 16 Ra1 Bc8
 17 Bc4 Bd7
 18 Bc3 Nc6
 19 Bc2 Nc6
 20 Q2 e6
 21 exf6 Bxf6
 22 Qg3 Bg7
 23 h4 Ne7
 24 h5 Nf5
 25 Qf2 g6
 26 Ne5 h6
 27 Bd1 h4
 28 Bf5 Rf8
 29 Ng4 Nf3
 30 Qh4 Nd1
 31 Nf6+ Bxf6
 32 Qg4+ Kh8
 33 Rf1 Bc8
 34 Qh3 e5
 35 Q3 Bb7
 36 e6 Bg7
 37 Qd8+ Bf8
 38 Rf8+ Kg7
 39 Rf6 Qe5
 40 Rf7+ Kc8
 41 Bf6 Kc9
 42 Rf1 Qe1+
 43 Bg4 Qe7
 Black resigns

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ALLARGANDO
 a. Go slower
 b. Seasoned with cumin
 c. A river boat

BOEHM
 a. A valise
 b. A gun
 c. Fingering

FACH
 a. A line of work
 b. To clean
 c. A teenager

GILGAI
 a. An antelope
 b. Gossip
 c. A natural reservoir

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is a variation from the game Nimzowitsch — Spielmann, New York, 1927. How can White best respond to the attack against his queen?

Solution on page 50

FOOTBALL

Vialli remains calm in face of rare reverse

By Russell Kempson

GIANLUCA VIALLI, the Chelsea player-manager, has experienced only a few setbacks since he succeeded Ruud Geffin at Stamford Bridge ten months ago. He led the side to success in the Coca-Cola Cup and Cup Winners' Cup last season and has created a squad palpably capable of winning the FA Cup...

for Chelsea stretching back to the first game of the season in mid-August. Unlike many of his peers, Vialli chose not to blame the uneven pitch, the referee or individual players. He blamed himself.

"We are probably not able to change our system. We needed to win the battle in the mid-field, but it did not happen. We now have to see how we cope with a defeat and I hope we can show we are strong enough."

To change previously successful tactics always carries a high-risk element. To do it against Wimbledon, the most caustic of opponents, proved to be a serious miscalculation. Although Vialli scored his sixth goal in the competition this season, in the 85th minute, Wimbledon were already 2-0 ahead through a header from Robbie Earle and a penalty from Michael Hughes.

Kenwright ready for leading role

By Stephen Wood

FOUR years ago, he did not carry enough conviction to see the job through. Yesterday, however, Bill Kenwright, the theatre and film impresario, admitted that he is now willing to gamble on an attempt to secure the takeover of Everton.

was not sure I was the man to lead Everton into the new century, but now I am. I told Peter Johnson that I would drop out of our race if he promised me he would love the club as much as I do, and that he would serve it with pride.



Kenwright ambitions

Kenwright, 53, was the main rival to a bid by Peter Johnson to buy the majority shareholding of the club in 1994. However, with neither gaining a significant advantage, Kenwright dropped out, returning to his post on the board of directors. Johnson brought his tenure to a bitter end earlier this week, after a public stand-off with Walter Smith, the manager.

Joe Kinear, the Wimbledon manager, lapped up the adulation — not for him the cool Vialli approach — and gazed into his Selhurst Park crystal ball. It will be the club's third cup semi-final in two years and the winners of the Worthington Cup qualify for the UEFA Cup next season.

Regulation attempts to gain entry had proved fruitless, but when Crossley tried unorthodox means, he got more than he bargained for. "I was trying to get in through an open window when someone grabbed me around the neck," he said.

Crossley, 30, is the captain of Kingstonian, the Conference side who take on Leyton Orient, from the Nationwide League third division, in the FA Cup second round at Kingsmeadow on Sunday.



For Crossley, the captain of Kingstonian, the football field presents a much calmer, safer environment than when he is at work

Out of the frying pan and into the fire

When Matt Crossley calls, he rarely receives a warm welcome. He has been chased down the road, had ferocious dogs let loose on him and been subjected to torrents of foul-mouthed abuse.

Out of the frying pan and into the fire

with unpaid business rates and council tax. "I spend most of my days knocking on the doors of restaurants, shops or whatever," he said. "I always try to sort out some sort of arrangement, but sometimes you have to threaten to take away goods. It doesn't usually come to that, though."



Russell Kempson on a player who has to be nimble on and off the pitch

the driver and heavy," Crossley said. "He also had to climb through a few windows, but all he really wanted to do was play cards in the cafe."

twice in an FA Trophy final against Kidderminster Harriers and Runcorn, and against Preston North End in a third-division play-off final — and collected a winner's medal on each occasion.

He has also worked with two of the country's brightest managers, Martin O'Neill, who is now with Leicester, and John Gregory, now with Aston Villa. "Martin is a bit of a madman but very witty and very funny," Crossley said.

Leeds take heart from Radebe's recovery

LUCAS RADEBE, the Leeds United captain, is on course to make his comeback on Saturday, at home to West Ham United, after five weeks out with a knee ligament injury.

secure the transfer of David Batty, the England midfielder player, from Newcastle United. However, Leeds appear likely to increase their original bid in an attempt to settle a deal, which is dragging on longer than expected.

any further with their negotiations. David has done everything he can do — he has been open and honest and handed in an official transfer request.

Liverpool debut away to Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday. The French midfielder player has been training on his own at the club this week after arriving at Anfield short of match fitness because a wages dispute had kept him sidelined for a month at Istanbulspor, his former club, in Turkey.

Millwall receive warning

MILLWALL were yesterday found guilty of failing to control their spectators when pitch invasions took place during their Nationwide League second division match against Manchester City in September.

After a hearing lasting more than six hours, an FA crowd control commission said that it was impressed by the South London club's determination to prevent any further problems.

The bad-tempered match also featured a brawl between opposing players, sparked after Tony Vaughan, of City, and Paul Shaw, of Millwall, were sent off in the 77th minute. Six other players were booked after the scuffle.

FOR THE RECORD

Table with multiple columns: BOWLS, CRICKET, ETON FIVES, FOOTBALL, RUGBY UNION, SCHOOLS SPORT, SQUASH, SWIMMING, POOLS DIVIDENDS, ICE HOCKEY. Each section lists various sports events and results.

Cuba team offered new home

A GERMAN fourth division club has come up with an astonishing plan to sign 15 members of the Cuba national squad — and their coach — in an effort to climb into the higher divisions.

Hans Viol, president of Bonn SC, and Rainer Thomas, the club coach, are due to fly to Havana on Sunday to try to set up the deal, which reportedly has the blessing of Fidel Castro's administration.

The club will also provide boots and kit, but the players will not be given a salary. There will be no problems with league rules as sides can field as many foreign amateur players as they like.

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Advertisement for Hen brand beer. Features an illustration of a man in a hat and a bottle of Hen beer. Text includes: "A perfect combination of smoothness and strength, with a subtle blend of flavours. Available in all fine supermarkets and off-licences. A most Gratifying Ale. Brewed by Morland of Abingdon. Est'd 1711. www.oldspeckledhen.co.uk"

Obsessive world of super-fan



Some spectators are content simply to watch when they can the performances of their sporting heroes — others become obsessive super-fans. One such was Giles Pellerin, who, until he died last week aged 91, never missed, in 75 years, a single game played by the American football team of the University of Southern California (USC). He first took his seat in 1923 and, as the years rolled by without a kick missed, he became a legend.

For his funeral, Pellerin's family requested "no flowers, no wreaths" — just donations to the USC sports teams. Such devotion is a long and expensive business — Pellerin is said to have spent close to £60,000 raking in the triumphs of his heroes. But he was not alone. Obsessives like him are legion, especially in football.

George Dixon, a devotee of Aberdeen FC, continued his passion even after he emigrated to Perth, Australia. When they played in the 1983 Cup Winners' Cup final, he phoned his mother in Scotland, who pressed the receiver against a radio so that he could follow commentary of the match. Inevitably, it went to extra time and the phone bill ran into hundreds of pounds.

The word "fan" is an abbreviation of fanatic and some have suggested that, for the most committed fans, sport can be said to function as a kind of "surrogate religion". Indications of this are provided by the reverential attitudes of fans towards their teams and by the idolization of players.

Indeed, it is not uncommon for some fans to turn their bedrooms into shrines. This week, an undertaker in Middlesbrough was offering to bury supporters in coffins painted with their club colours, while it is not unknown for whole homes to be converted into mini-cathedrals to the glory of some worshipped team.

Norley Whiting, a dustman from Devon, was so obsessed that his entire house became a shrine to Fulham FC. Naturally, it was called "Craven Cottage", after the club's home ground, and was painted throughout in the club colours of black and white. The hall was papered with Fulham programmes, the garage was entered through goalposts and the porch was lit by a carriage lamp fashioned in an effigy of Johnny Hayes.

Other fans will turn their devotion into pilgrimages. A band of non-league football supporters, known as the "groundhoppers", haunt far-flung provinces of Great Brit-



The Tals have been making pilgrimages to Britain for 20 years, preferably to grounds tucked away in a forest of chimneys



ain seeking out matches at obscure grounds. They come with their own rites and rituals — one of them insists on touching both crossbars, another on photographing the corner flags.

However, surely none can match the behaviour of a group of European, mainly Dutch, football fans, who worship at the altar of the British game. They dub themselves "The Tals", which is short for "The Continental Society for People Interested in British Football".

Last month, to celebrate their twentieth anniversary, they came to witness a game between two founder members of the Football League — Preston North End and Burnley — at Deepdale. But this was merely the climax to years of pilgrimage to British grounds. Hans van Eijden, one of their high priests, whose main hobby is football statistics and whose favourite English television are the Open University and Ceefax, explains their subculture: "We are entirely dedicated to British football. We revise attempts by kit manufacturers to subvert the designs of yesterday, we hate all-seater grounds and do not call the domestic cup competitions after their sponsor's name."

"We prefer grounds that are tucked away in a forest of chimneys, we want heated de-



Even in the close season, the Tals continue to worship; one Dutch devotee has built this replica of an archetypal British football stadium in the living room of his home

bate on divisions one, two, three and four and not on the Premier or Nationwide leagues. We like the pace and excitement of your game and we love English breakfasts. Our affection is not restricted to one club and we consider the sight of the white cliffs of Dover comparable to any other shore sight in the world."

The Tals meet monthly in their "Trophy Room" to swap statistics, match programmes and gossip about British football. They have watched more than 2,600 games in Britain over the past 20 years. One member, Ruud Vermeer, boasts of being the first to accomplish the ultimate pilgrimage, having attended matches at every one of the 92 league grounds. Another saved the last turnstile from Preston's

'We hate all-seater grounds and do not call cup competitions after the sponsor's name'

old West Stand and keeps it in his garden, along with turf taken from the Goldstone Ground after Brighton's last home match.

With an ever-extending football season, the Tals are busy for most of the year, although there are still those terrible, barren weeks for the super-fan when football in Britain comes

to a halt. Even this is no problem, according to Van Eijden.

"There has been some serious stand-building going on in a Dutch living room for five close seasons," he said. "We have built a handmade model of an archetypal British ground. Every brick was manufactured and baked, every bench cut to precision. We have a barrel roof, terraces and a genuine Kop."

You can gaze down on a complete replica pitch, with every player frozen in one exact moment of action. "In this scene," Van Eijden said, "Huddersfield Town are scoring 1-0 against Liverpool."

Whatever the score, this is a victory for obsession, for there can be no close season in the world of the true super-fan.

JOHN BRYANT

TELEVISION CHOICE

Car crime on camera

The Cook Report Special
ITV, 8.00pm

Roger Cook goes in search of car crime, not youngsters who steal wheels for a joy ride but the organised criminals who are part of a lucrative trade in dodgy vehicles, complete with equally dodgy licences, registration documents and insurance forms. At the heart of the programme is the Cook team's undercover pursuit of a number of alleged villains, which reveals how vehicles are stolen to order and why cars with a showroom price of £15,000 can be picked up for half that amount. Motorcycles provide another rich source of illegal income and are even easier to steal. In Liverpool the hidden camera rolls as a £10,000 Ducati Monster is lifted into a van in broad daylight despite a heavily chained rear wheel. David Coppen, a London dental technician, has had 11 bikes stolen, one of them three times.

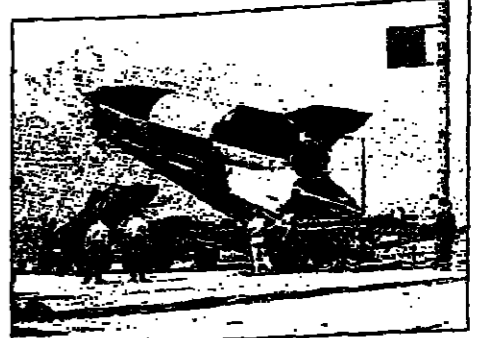
Beat Route

BBC2, 8.00pm (Not Scotland or Ireland)

This travel and music series is only two episodes old and already it is clear that Jools Holland is happy to go with the tourist clichés and not against them. He is in Seville this week and while he barely mentions the oranges, the city's other two claims to fame — bullfighting and flamenco — feature prominently, not to mention the cigar factory where Carmen worked. Discovering that nobody in Seville speaks English (not that there is any reason why they should) Holland wisely avails himself of an interpreter who leads him both to a bullfight, which is not shown, and a flamenco class, which is. Perhaps convinced he will not make it as a dancer, Holland turns to his piano and treats us to an *al fresco* rendition of a Bo Diddley number with enthusiastic local backing.

Personal Services: Capital Gardens
Channel 4, 8.30pm

According to Channel 4's publicity material, tonight's film features somebody called Lady Evelyn Barbara-Rolley. She turns out to be Lady Barbirolli, widow of Sir John and herself a musician of note. Her presence in John Pimm's series on service providers, however, has nothing to do with music and everything to do with people



A V2 being prepared for launch on London in 1944. Science at War (BBC2, 9.25pm)

who enjoy their London gardens but rely on others to maintain them. In Lady Barbirolli's case this is due to age. Although you might not guess it, she is 87 and her gardener, the past 12 years has been a sympathetic Irishman, John Galvin. We also meet Dennis Mount, a 70-year-old retired pastry cook who lives in Chelsea. He has only a balcony garden of his own but looks after the garden of the man who lives below, for which his reward is a weekly bottle of wine.

Science at War: Rocket Men
BBC2, 9.25pm

The latest in this admirable series traces the history of rocket technology from its humble beginnings in Germany in the 1920s to President Reagan's stillborn Strategic Defence Initiative. The pioneers — rocketry was, after all, an amateur's playground — not only in space travel. But once Hitler held the idea of peaceful uses were soon forgotten and the result was the V2. After the war, rockets became part of superpower rivalry, as the Soviet Union and United States each tried to outdo the other. The launch of Sputnik panicked the Americans into producing the Minuteman, which in turn provoked a Soviet response and so on. However, the ending of the Cold War has not put the missile man out of business. Scientists from both sides, including the nuclear pioneer Edward Teller, help to tell the story. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

New Radio

Radio 4, 11.30pm

This is a curiosity and none the worse for that, although I am not sure that a network should compartmentalise experimental programming rather than let it take its chance in the schedule. This is the second in a series of programmes containing short features, documentaries and plays showcasing work by first-time producers. Tonight's includes a seven-minute play, ironically entitled *The Happiest Days of Your Life*, which has been written by Tim Benwick, who plays David in *The Archers* (and who is also the Earl of Portland). The play is very cleverly structured, using a sampling process — in this case sampling snippets of radio programmes — to tell a story of murder and political intrigue.

Love 40 — New Balls Please
Radio 2, 9.30pm

One can just about see why the BBC describes this as the rock'n'roll musical sitcom for baby boomers of all ages, but as categories go that one is as broad as it is long, to so speak. Unfortunately I do not benefit from a preview tape but this is the first programme in the series and to judge by the first it deserves a listen, even if you think that a baby boomer is one of those clever devices that parents use to listen to the dear little things from another room. The programme's format is sketches plus songs and the thread that it is all based on is the life of Maryon Winchster, a singer/songwriter living in Winchester. Andrew Sachs and John Challis are just two among an excellent cast. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Kevin Greening 2.00pm Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Chris Moyles 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce 8.00 Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session 8.30 Trade Update 10.10 John Peel 12.00 Andy Kershaw 2.00am Chris Warren 4.00 Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 John Inverdale 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 Johnnie Walker 7.00 David Allen 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 The A1 Road 10.00 News 10.30 Radio 2 Breakfast 11.00 Radio 2 Afternoon 11.30 News 12.00 Richard Ainsworth 12.00 Lynn Parsons 3.00am Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 6.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Quaszo and Co 4.00 Drive Presented by Jerry Garvey and Peter Allen 7.00 News Extra with David McNeil 7.30 Time of My Life. The hockey player Sean Kelly reflects on his 1988 Olympic success with the Great Britain men's 8.00 Radio 5 Breakfast 9.00 Round-up of what's new in British basketball 9.30 Sportsbook 10.00 Late Night Live. Presented by Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans 8.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.40 Janet Scott 7.30 Larry Lee Grace 10.00 Mark Forster 1.00am James Meritt 4.30 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.00am Bill Overton and Clara Calford 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Anna Rasmussen 4.00 Peter Dinkley 6.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air includes Haydn (Piano trio in A flat, H XV 14); Vaughan Williams (Greenpeace); Thomas (Overture: Plymouth)
8.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday, Weber (Bassoon Concerto in F); Liszt (Hungarian Rhapsody No 2 in C sharp minor); Mozart (String Quartet K 465)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Peter Katin
11.00 Sound Stories: Musical Parallels — La Belle Époque with Richard Baker
12.00 Composer of the Week: Mozart
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert: The vocal ensemble Henry's Eight are directed by Jonathan Brown and a voice Mass for the Blessed Virgin Mary by Byrd. Christmas music by Heinrich Isaac, Victoria and Lassus, and traditional carols
2.00 The BBC Orchestra BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra under Marilyn Barbina and George Hurst, with Lisa Milne, soprano
4.00 Ensemble Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 76 No 1) performed by the Prazak Quartet. Beethoven (Violin Sonata in G major, Op 30 No 5) performed by Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Cismow, piano duet (1)
4.45 Music Machine Tommy Pearson and Ian Cross look at how we determine rhythm and melody

RADIO 4

6.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast 6.40 Intra-Action Presented by the Day 5.47 Farming Today Presented by Charlotte Smith 6.00 Today with Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie 8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg Melvyn Bragg and guests consider ideas and events which have influenced the present age
9.30 Shorelines How the closure of the Goodwin Sands experimental weapons firing range at Shoeburyness will affect the locals (4/5)
9.45 (FM) Serial: Barrow's Boys (4/5)
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray
11.00 Crossing Continents Julian Patten discovers how the women of Entree are setting into civilian life as politicians, businesswomen and pop stars after 30 years as freedom-fighters
11.30 Civil War Series: Red Apples Final part of Christopher Lee's thriller. Starring Christopher Benjamin and Amanda Redman (6/6)
12.00 (FM) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer news and investigations, presented by John Waine and Liz Barclay
12.00 (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast 1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke 1.30 Brain of Britain 1998 The final of the general knowledge contest, chaired by Robert Robinson 2.00 The Archers (1)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Painting Miss Jones Rachel Joyce's drama about a woman sitting for her portrait. Starring James Laurenson and David Attobius (1)
3.00 Call Your Neighbour: 0171-580 4444 Peter White presents the consumer justice programme
3.30 Songlines David Stefford considers the origins of the socialist anthem The Red Flag (4/5)

RADIO 5

5.00 In Tune The Korean soprano Sunji Jo talks to Sean Rafferty about her international success
7.45 Performance on 5 (Sounding the Centenary) Live from the Barbican Centre, London. Monty Python and Orchestra under John Eliot Gardiner. Vivaldi (Gloria in D); Bach (Cantata No 4: Christe elei in D); Schubert (The House of Fear. The second of four interval programmes of readings from the surrealistic works of Leonora Carrington 8.00 Handel (Duet Dominus)
8.50 Postscript: Happy Talk
9.50 Music: Restored Chris de Souza introduces the first of two Radio 5 Invitation Concerts of Spanish music recorded at the Royal Academy of Music
10.45 Night Waves Peter Allen discusses the new film, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, which stars Meryl Streep
11.30 Jazz Notes Campbell Burnas celebrates 30 years of the World's Greatest Jazz Band
12.00 Composer of the Week: Joseph (1)
1.00am Through the Night introduced by Donald Macleod. 1.00 Beethoven Symphony Series 2.28 Vienna (Violin Sonata 3.00 Schools 5.00 Beethoven, an Artist's Portrait. Filson 5.05 Crucel (Concerto in B flat) 5.30 Beethoven (Violin Sonata in F, Op 24, Spring) 5.50 Corelli (Sonata in A minor, Op 1 No 4)

RADIO 6

3.45 Fireweed by Gea Williams, read by Sue Jones
4.45 New in Action Presented by Marcel Berlins
4.30 The Material World Today Phillips investigates the elusive flu virus which causes 400 deaths each year
5.00 PM Presented by Clare English and Eddie Mair
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Kate and Cindy Cindy meets Mr Right — but is it the end of a beautiful friendship with Kate? (6/6)
7.00 The Week in Westminster Mary Ann Sieghart, Assistant Editor of *The Times*, looks behind the scenes at Westminster
8.00 Ground Control New series: Angela Lamont investigates current civil engineering projects, beginning with the Cardiff Bay Barrage (1/4)
8.30 In Our Time with Melvyn Bragg (1)
10.20 The World Tonight with Robin Lustig
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Another World Part 1: the Pat Barker's new novel about the past's influence on the present. Read by Robert Glenister
11.00 Late Night on 4: The Credleys Topical comedy show by Mike Jessons and Giff Rhye Jones. Simon Godley and Felicity Phillips
11.15 MacLean: The Methuen Years Comedy, by John Langdon. A former junior minister records his thoughts on his life and career. Leslie Phillips stars
11.30 (FM) New Radio See Choice (2/4)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
12.00 News 12.30 The Late Book: A Man in Full William Hazlitt's reads part 14 of Tom Wolfe's novel about being a man in the 1950s (1)
12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 A World Service

CALIFORNIA ZINFANDEL

Perfect with goats cheese tartlet and herb salad.

WORD WATCH

Answers from page 48

ALLARGANDO
(a) A musical direction indicating that the time is to be made slower and slower and the tone fuller. Also a passage of music in this style. The present participle of the Italian *allargare* to broaden.

BOEHM
(c) The eponym of Theobald Bohm (1794-1881), a German musician, applied attributively to the system of keys and fingering which he invented in 1832.

FACH
(a) A line of work or business, a department of activity. One's métier. The German for compartment, partition, division, shelf, and figuratively, a circumscribed branch of knowledge.

GILGAI
(c) A saucer-like depression forming a natural reservoir for water. The native Australian name.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1. Qxg7+ wins material, eg. 1... Kxg7. 2. Nxc6+ Bxc3. Nxd8 Bxb2. 4. Nxc6+.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

RYMAN LEAGUE: Vandonal Trophy: Second round: Hinchurch v Basing
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Norwich v Oxford

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Northampton Forest v Leicester (7/3)

RUGBY UNION
Tour match
Leicester v Fiji XV (7.45)

OTHER SPORT
ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Manchester Storm v Cardiff Devils (7.0). Newcastle Fireworks v Nottingham Panthers (7.15)

TENNIS: ATP Senior Tour of Champions (at Olympia)

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FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 89.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 699, 909. WORLD SERVICE, MW 646, LW 188 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 653, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManera.

Getting one's teeth into the mating game

Working male birds building a nest — which is a sort of babe-magnet in the bird world, since females like to know that they'll have a cosy home for their eggs — it is astonishing how beautiful, intricate and strong the resulting web of twigs turns out to be, considering that the birds are using just their beaks to make it.

This is obviously where many human carpenters and plumbers are going wrong. They keep using their hands instead of their teeth, with the result that their workmanship invests them with the same sexual allure as roofing felt. Or maybe a mug of tea and Hobnobs don't create the same occupational incentive as sex. (Client: "Why not tighten the leaking joint with your teeth?" Plumber: "Because the woman's in the way." Client: "What if I slept with you afterwards?" Plumber: "Do I still get my tea and Hobnobs, too?")

Since nest-building male birds also have other advantages over human beings — for example, their working day isn't routinely interrupted by the need to pop out to the van for a spanner — which builders' code for "I am now going off to hibernate until spring arrives" — you'd understand if they decided to use all the time they save to linger a little over sex. Which they do. Some birds even linger as long as three seconds. But not many. As David Attenborough put it in *Finding Partners*, last night's episode of *The Life of Birds* (BBC1): "Mating in birds can be a very quick business, no more than a brief meeting of genital openings." The ugliest rock grouse probably has more fun backstage than this.

Courtship, which is mostly done by the males, tends to be a vanity fair. They prance about waving their plumage, which is the avian equivalent of

driving around in a Ferrari with the hood down. To lure females, frigate birds on the Galapagos Islands spend 20 minutes inflating their red throat pouches. This leaves them looking like grumpy uncles on boxing day, forced to play that party game where you tuck a huge red balloon under your chin and have to pass it down a line of people without using your hands. Various phasmas unfold their colourful wattles like carpenter's unrolling their warps to tempt tourists in a Turkish bazaar.

Curassows and guans seem improbably successful in finding mates by making weird noises, a technique borrowed from Engelbert Humperdinck. California hunt in packs, filling the Amazonian rainforest with a sound they achieve by inflating their throats so that they look like they're suffering from gonorrhoea. Cook-of-the-rocks also assemble in

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

dozen-strong groups to dance seductively, like male Tiller girls. As in the human world, the cutest male tends to get not just the girls he can handle, because they all assume he'll prove the best genetic partner (this theory came a little untraced with Rock Hudson). A sense of humour cuts little ice. A bird who has the construction skill and physical endurance to build

several nests also tends to be successful with several females simultaneously, in much the same way that a rich playboy who can afford homes in London, Paris, New York and Cap d'Antibes rarely has too much difficulty in finding females to occupy them.

Although in desperate circumstances you can't afford to be too fussy, which is why the male capercaillie in the Scottish Highlands was so anxious to mate that he tried to mount the host. "He's so charged up — this being the breeding season — that he will display to almost anything," stammered Attenborough as he retreated speedily to avoid a brief meeting with the persistent capercaillie, "including me." But not all males like to make a song and dance out of sex. On the Arctic Tundra, it is just too cold for extravagant displays. So the male buff-breasted sandpiper is reduced to merely lifting his wing and showing his

armpit, one at a time. Must be the plumbers of the bird kingdom.

The second episode of *Lucy Blakstad's Naked* (BBC2) focused, in general, on young adults in the prime of their life and focused, in particular, on 28-year-old Daz, a Gladiator on TV. Daz actually thinks of himself in bird terms. "I was just this tall, young geezer," he says, recalling his adolescence with disbelief. "Maybe I was just the ugly duckling that grew into a swan." All the money he earns — from stripping, from modelling, from Gladiatoring — comes from the shape of his body, which bulges out in unlikely places, the way a snake bulges out after swallowing an ostrich egg whole. Daz has two houses, a BMW and money in the bank. Maybe he bought the second home because he needed some extra room to store his biceps.

For all Sheila Hancock's talk that the membership of the Women's University Club includes "some very cheeky ladies, full of wild and revolutionary ideas," you don't get the impression that they are so cheeky or so wild that they'd ever think of hiring Daz to spice up one of their gatherings. The Mayfair club, which let us in for a peek in *Behind Closed Doors* (BBC2), had instead invited Ben Pimlott, M.P., to talk to them about the constitution. He warned them that he didn't do jokes. Stripping would presumably have been out of the question.

You don't need to have gone to university to join, but one member told us that women who hadn't achieved anything "would not be suited". Clearly, women sometimes need a place where they can just show off their own bright plumage to each other, without sex-mad males strutting around inflating their scarlet throat pouches and making fools of themselves.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (56715)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (133661)
9.00 Kilroy (1585386)
9.40 Style Challenge (1519116)
10.05 City Hospital (17355593)
10.55 News; Regional News; Weather (14027864)
11.00 Good Living with Jane Asher (4037241)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (14047828)
11.55 News; Regional News; Weather (11962777)
12.00 Pass the Buck (941338)
12.25pm Going for a Song (9620845)
12.50 The Weather Show (173495057)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (143048)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (45792241)
1.40 Neighbours: Amy pushes Lance too far (10778828)
2.05 Inside Part One: The Chief visits Montreal where separatist terrorists are caught up in a deadly scheme (1495818)
2.55 Wipeout (1) Consuming Passions (402574)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (9681845)
3.45 Firearm Sam (6752154); **3.55 Rugrats** (3865893); **4.20 M M Wyn** (1712086); **4.35 Smart** (9154429); **5.00 Newsround** (2781203); **5.10 Acaduc** (8404319)
5.35 Neighbours: Amy pushes Lance too far (1) (1717405)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (133661)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (90)
7.00 Watchdog with Anne Robinson Consumer investigation show, exposing some of the biggest names in the street under the spotlight (1) (5155)
7.30 EastEnders: Tragedy strikes (1) Queen Vic (1) (74)
8.00 Animal Hospital: Anesthetic (1) close shave and a boob, close shave chemotherapy after surgery to remove a cancerous spleen (1) (574)
8.30 Point44: Children Comedy starring Beinda Lang (1) (4609)
9.00 Party Political Broadcast On behalf of the Liberal Democrats (1) (150394)
9.05 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (1) (511085)
9.35 dinnerdate Tony and Ben find happiness, and Philippa plays a morale-boosting for the rest of the gang harassed by pregnancy scares and stray brainfalls. Comedy, starring Victoria Wood (1) (176388)
10.05 They Think It's All Over With Jo Brand (1) (130661)
10.35 Clive Anderson: All Talk With Anthony Hopkins (245628)
11.05 Question Time Political debate chaired by David Dimbleby (1) (490332)
12.05 Dr. Strangelove (1963) Black comedy about a crazed USAF general who launches a nuclear attack on Russia. Starring Peter Sellers in three roles, with Sterling Hayden. Directed by Stanley Kubrick (1) (504841)
1.40 Weather (7546704)
1.45 BBC News 24 (4562346)

- 7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Adventures of the Garden Fairies** (5661593); **7.05 Teletubbies** (5662135); **7.30 Tom and Jerry Kids** (894715); **7.35 Blue Peter** (1517698); **8.20 Robinson** (3293338); **8.40 Finding Foodie** (8817718); **8.55 The Adventures of the Garden Fairies** (8435932); **9.00 Job Bank** (2303715); **9.10 Belief File** (6335136); **9.20 Watch** (3873864); **9.45 Come Outside** (8878319); **10.00 Teletubbies** (5661593); **10.30 Storytime** (4327833); **10.45 Teaching Today** (848684); **11.15 Zig Zag** (3256877); **11.25 Liteschool** (8006932); **12.00 Job Bank** (3014970); **12.10pm English File** (961852); **12.30 Working Lunch** (93870); **1.00 Fiddle Fiddle Bird** (21147086)
1.10 The Arts and Crafts Hour (293867)
2.10 Match of the Day Greats (86639796)
2.40 News; Weather (1) (5696777)
2.45 Westminster with Diana Madill (1) (2177448)
3.25 News; Weather (1) (561622)
3.30 Gardeners' World (1) (98)
4.00 Change This (1) (954536)
4.25 Royal Society (1) (9517425)
4.55 Lancelotti (1) (742951)
5.30 Tickles on the Day (1) (67)
5.35 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine - Sci-Fi adventure (1) (372309)
6.45 Sideline Part Two (1) (372309)
7.30 First Sight: The plight of child refugees from war-torn Kosovo (1) (16)
8.00 **Beit Route** Jocke Holland continues his grand tour of Europe with a visit to Seville (3116)
8.30 Top Gear A look back at the Triumph Mayflower and Austin Atlantic (1) (5651)
9.00 Third Rock from the Sun Becomes a karaoke star (1) (65777)
9.25 **Science at War** The development of rocket warfare (1) (658200)
10.15 Viewers' Tales with Janice Robinson. Last in series (1) (481932)
10.30 Party Political Broadcast by the Liberal Democrats (628202)
10.35 Newsnight (1) (231116)
11.15 Late Review New film *Dancing at Lughnasa* (404512)
11.55 Holiday Weather (587408)
12.00 Despatch Box (73029)
12.30am BBC Learning Zone: The Leisure Six Personal Passions 12.45 Off With the Music: TV in the 1980s 1.20 Images Over India 1.50 Open Late Arts 2.00 Further Education: Working in the Care of Older People 4.00 Teaching Film and Media: Amused 4.30 But Is It Any Good? Evaluating Film 5.00 Teaching: Training: The Library Hour 2 5.45 Open University: After the Revolution 5.10 Wetaring the Desert

- 5.30am ITN Morning News** (17795)
6.00 GMTV (1621425)
9.25 Trivia (1) (2352116)
10.15 This Morning (1) (603406)
12.15pm ITN News and Weather (1) (3097203)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (1) (97796)
1.00 Shortland Street (38116)
1.30 Home and Away (1) (96057)
2.00 Christmas Home in the Country with Alison Cork (879) (5685154)
2.40 Supermarket Sweep (1) (4021086)
3.10 ITN News Headlines (1) (8340980)
3.15 ITN News (1) (832970)
3.20 ITV: Widdow (8320135); **3.30 Kipper** (3402785); **3.45 Paddington Bear** (474222); **3.55 Cow and Chicken** (3879609); **4.15 Hey Arnold!** (4547854); **4.40 The Worst Witch** (1233241)
5.10 A Country Practice (6207970)
5.35 ITV CrimeStoppers (1) (965837)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (1) (818338)
6.00 Home and Away (1) (97287)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (1) (203995)
6.25 WEST: ITV Weather (627845)
6.30 The West Tonight (1) (88)
7.00 Emmerdale Terry takes a terrible revenge (1) (4222)
7.30 WEST: We Can Work It Out A look at how Premiership football clubs treat their young fans (7)
7.30 WALES: Wales This Week (70)

- As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Weather** (1) (630307); **1.00 Echo Post** (38116); **1.30 Christmas Home in the Country** (3/9) (7636390); **2.10-2.40 Home and Away** (1) (8668022); **3.15-3.30 Central News** (1) (632970); **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (8207070); **6.25-6.55 Central News; Weather** (1) (837816); **6.55-7.00 Lifetime** (1) (330393); **10.35-10.45 Central News; Weather** (1) (879796); **10.45-12.45 FILLM: One Good Cop** (1) (322116); **1.40am Pirate TV** (57) (6150758); **2.05 ITV at the Reading Festival** (269607); **3.05 Box Office** (1) (60091); **3.35 The Haunted Flat** (1) (8927588); **3.55 Hairloom** (99393507); **4.25 Jobfinder '98** (1) (407020); **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (2582075)
- As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.27 West-country News; Weather** (1) (3037203); **1.00 Emmerdale** (1) (1) (38116); **1.30 Christmas Home in the Country** (3/9) (7636390); **2.10-2.40 Home and Away** (1) (8668022); **3.15-3.30 Westcountry News; Weather** (1) (832970); **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (1) (832970); **6.25-6.55 Westcountry News** (1) (82965); **10.35-10.45 Westcountry News; Weather** (1) (879796); **10.45 Personal Column** (1/2) (111367); **11.15 Richard Digance: For One Night Only** (1) (878406); **12.15am-12.45 Campus Cops** (58348)
- As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 News; Weather** (3097203); **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (1) (38116); **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (1) (26); **6.30-7.00 Rural Rides** (4/8) (86); **10.35 News; Weather** (1) (399409); **10.50-12.45 FILLM: On Deadly Ground** (61271319)
- As HTV West except: 12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (530307); **1.00-1.30 Split Second** (3116); **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (8207070); **6.25 Anglia News** (1) (837816); **6.55-7.00 What's On** (330393); **10.35 Anglia News and Weather** (1) (389048); **10.50 Cover Story** (4/5) (229680); **11.20 First Take** (717661); **11.50-12.45 Anatomy of Disaster** (303067)

- 5.55am Sesame Street** (9635693)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (66999)
9.00 Schools: History in Action (6331319)
9.20 Geographical Eye Over Britain 2 (6344883); **9.40 Off the Walls** (9616338)
10.00 Middle English (3822632); **10.15 Schools at Work** (4002864); **10.20 Fourways Farm** (8021863); **10.30 Scientific Eye** (851203); **10.50 Book Box Poetry** (9463116); **11.00 The Number Crew** (1834574); **11.10 Top!** (3244864)
11.30 Powerhouse (1) (8154)
12.00 Sesame Street (69425)
12.30pm I Dream of Jeannie (1) (95338)
1.00 Judge Joe Brown (69086)
1.30 Train of Thought (50351796)
1.35 25 Years to Better Street (1959) Tense thriller, starring Van Johnson as a blind playwright who overhears two people plotting a murder. Directed by Henry Hathaway (1) (5749884)
3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (64)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (89)
4.30 Countdown (1) (914864)
4.55 Rialto Lake (1) (7474319)
5.30 Pet Rescue Roadshow (1) (35)
6.00 Roseanne (1) (1) (48)
6.30 Hollyoaks Jude takes desperate measures (1) (26)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (1) (839777)
7.50 The 1998 Turner Prize: Writing about Art (1) (188947)
8.00 The Italian Kitchen Two Rose Gray and Ruth Rogers visit a traditional mill in northern Italy to discover the secret blend of potentia that makes it more popular than pasta in the region (3/6) (1) (1517)
8.30 **CHOICE** Personal Services: John Filimon meets Sylvia Taylor, who runs a gardening business in the heart of London (4/5) (1) (7319)

- 6.00am 5 News and Sport** Headline round-up (6786796)
7.00 Wide World (1) (1) (6549863)
7.30 Milkshake! (2188883)
7.55 Wizzles' House; (1) 5 News Update (6750086)
8.00 Havalakoo (1) (7161338)
8.30 Dappledawn Farm; 5 News Update (716009)
9.00 The Antiques Hunter (1) (1) (3794048)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (1) (4629406)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (8885135)
10.20 Sunset Beach Nielsen wants revenge (1) (1020257)
11.10 Leesa (1) (8037067)
12.00 5 News at Noon (1) (7164245)
12.30pm Family Affairs Romance blossoms between Josh and Mel; (1) (1) 5 News Update (2785135)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful Ridge confronts Stephanie (1) (6548154)
1.30 Sons and Daughters Lynn is stuck in Sydney. 5 News Update (2784406)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (1065686)
2.30 Good Afternoon (2722561)
3.30 Blackbeard the Pirate (1952) A reformed pirate tries to rid the Spanish coast of bloodsucking buccanniers. Blackbeard, Robert Newton stars. Directed by Raoul Walsh (7187048)
5.20 The Roseanne Show (9654680)
6.00 100 Per Cent (2990425)



Chris (Ian Ashpitel) suffers a breakdown (6.30pm)



A film following Lisa Mason as her body repairs a fractured arm (9pm)

- VIDEO Plus+ and VHS Plus+ codes** The Plus+ code for each programme is for VHS Plus+ programming. Just enter the VIDEO Plus+ number for the programme in the Plus+ code reader for every tape.
- For more details call VIDEO Plus+ on 0940 750710. Calls charged at 25p per minute, plus VAT. VIDEO Plus+ is a registered trademark of Genstar Development Corporation. © 1998
- For further listings see Saturday's Vision**
- SKY 1**
7.00am The Simpsons (9189) **7.30 The Clue Events Breakfast Show** (92929) **8.30 Hollywood Squares** (7051) **9.00 Gaby** (87718) **10.00 Jay Jay the Bus Driver** (94948) **11.00 The Open Winery Show** (89884) **12.00pm Jerry Jones** (5510795) **1.00pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **1.30pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **2.00pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **2.30pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **3.00pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **3.30pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **4.00pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **4.30pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **5.00pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **5.30pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **6.00pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **6.30pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **7.00pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **7.30pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **8.00pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **8.30pm The Special Collection** (5510795) **9.00pm The Special Collection** (5510795) 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FOOTBALL 46 Girl with the world at her feet pursues Cottage dream

SPORT

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3 1998

CRICKET 47 Tudor quick to make mark as gamble on youth pays dividend



Dawson handed goalkicking duties against rampant South Africa

England's backs to the wall

By DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND reshuffled their back division yesterday, though not in the way they would like for their bid at Twickenham on Saturday to prevent South Africa returning home with a grand slam of victories over the home unions. They will take the field without four of their first-choice backs and pass the responsibility for kicking goals to Matthew Dawson.

Clive Woodward, the England coach, decided early on that neither Paul Grayson (knee) nor Will Greenwood (groin) could be considered at fly half and centre, while Kyran Bracken, the Saracens scrum half, remains on the casualty list. Therefore, Mike Catt will start in the No 10 jersey for the first time since he played half a game against South Africa last year and Phil de Glanville retains the place that was his against Australia last Saturday.

Nick Beal steps up for his seventh cap in place of the injured Matt Perry, though it is only his second start at full back, and Dan Luger returns to the left wing in place of Austin Healey, the only man to lose his place on form. Luger has the experience of two World Cup qualifying matches, against The Netherlands and Italy, to sustain him, but it is a tribute to him that Woodward has kept back David Rees for the replacements, where he is joined by Alex King.

England's problems are accentuated by the serene appearance of their opponents: South Africa will field the same XV that beat Ireland, unless James Dalton, the hooker, fails a fitness test on his hamstringing today. In beating Wales, Scotland and Ireland, they have made only two changes, both voluntary, bringing in Christian Stewart, at centre, for Franco Smith and Bobby Skinstad, at flanker, for Andre Venier, who has been so much part and parcel of their rise and rise.

Joost van der Westhuizen becomes only the second player from his country to reach 50 caps (behind Mark Andrews) and such has been the impact of the South Africa rugby



Luger and Beal, who have been named in the England side to play South Africa at Twickenham on Saturday, during training yesterday. Photograph: David Rogers / Allsport

players on their public in this unbeaten year that they have this week been voted "Newsmakers of the Year" in Pretoria, after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission won the award last year.

"The players have been the masters of their own destiny," Nick Mallett, their coach, said. "They have shown the ability, time and again, to come out on top when at half-time it was anyone's game."

Unhappily, he had only one opportunity of adding to the ten points he scored in the previous international, against New Zealand, a long-range penalty attempt that was almost the closest England came to South Africa's goal line. Nor has Dawson been kicking regularly for Northampton this season.

Clearly, Catt would be a candidate to kick goals, a role he fulfils on a weekly basis for Bath, were it not that Woodward had decided that the player would be better as a tactician without the additional responsibility. "I have every confidence in Matt Dawson," Woodward said. "You have to ask who else would kick goals. I can't just pluck someone from nowhere."

Dawson brushed up his technique in South Africa while training with the British Isles last year and demonstrated his value in Grayson's absence with Northampton the next season. Over the past year, the role has been filled for England by Catt, who has 120 international points to his credit. Grayson, Tim Stimpson, Jonathan Wilkinson — who has a stress injury to the back — and even, briefly, Perry before Dawson took over on the summer tour of the southern hemisphere.

The loss on his shoulders now becomes even greater, though the mature way in which Dawson handled the responsibilities of captaincy in the summer will be a comfort. Both Beal and Luger have an unexpected chance to impress before the Five Nations Championship, with Luger taking over from the wayward Healey. "Austin would admit he has not played in any of his three games this season as well as he did in the Five Nations last season," Woodward said.

Rovers to begin talks with Kidd

By STEPHEN WOOD

BLACKBURN Rovers last night moved a step closer to appointing Brian Kidd as their new manager when Manchester United granted them permission to speak to the assistant manager at Old Trafford.

Blackburn made Kidd, 49, their first choice from a shortlist of five, but their hopes of attracting him appeared to be doomed when Martin Edwards, the United chairman, initially denied them access. However, Edwards, realising he could not stand in the way of the man who had served the club so well, relented.

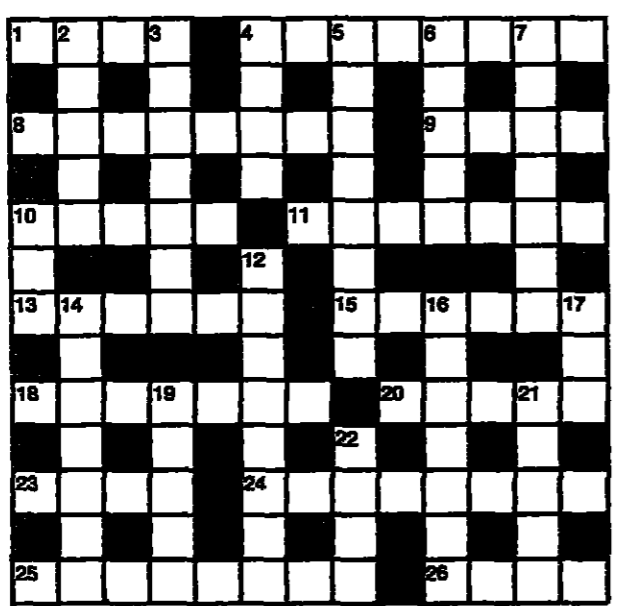
Late last night, he received a second approach from Blackburn and permitted them to talk to Kidd. Blackburn officials, including Jack Walker, the millionaire owner, will meet Kidd and his agent today in the hope of persuading him to become the successor to Roy Hodgson, who was dismissed as the club slipped to the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership.

John Williams, the Blackburn chief executive, said: "It is a good development and we are hopeful of taking things further."

Kidd will be offered a £500,000-a-year salary and a transfer fund of up to £25 million as incentives to take on the challenge of reviving the club that won the championship only three years ago. However, the biggest incentive for Kidd is the chance to emerge from the shadows of Alex Ferguson, the United manager.

In his seven years at Old Trafford, Kidd has helped United to become the most successful club in the country. Nevertheless, except for a brief spell in charge at Preston North End in 1986, he has never been tested on his own.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1579

- ACROSS: 1 Stern, forceful (4); 4 Unthankful people (8); 8 Promiscuous women (8); 9 Take long strides (4); 10 US president after Washington (5); 11 25th March (4,3); 13 Illegible writing (6); 15 Hole (to thread cord) (6); 18 Fine glass (7); 20 Country of Sphinx (5); 23 Some lines of text: type of soldier (both abbrev.) (4); 24 Compass housing (8); 25 Sweet-smelling (8); 26 Ancient 'harp' (4). DOWN: 2 Pungent; caustic (5); 3 Unpalatable choice (7); 4 Press an element (4); 5 Cobweb; fine gauze (8); 6 Put at rest (suspicion) (5); 7 Atone for (7); 10 Fathead (3); 12 Moorish palace, Granada (8); 14 Barbary pirate (7); 16 Decorate with notches: realign (anag.) (7); 17 Shoddy stuff (3); 19 Jargon (5); 21 Of the highest latitudes (5); 22 Biting little insect (4).

SOLUTION TO NO 1578 ACROSS: 1 Ensign 4 Strip 8 Smoke 9 Diviner 10 Ago 11 Legit 12 Banshee 14 Sherry 16 Spaced 20 Endgame 23 Comic 24 Cot 25 Inertia 26 Usual 27 Giddy 28 Meteor DOWN: 1 Easy listening 2 Shingle 3 Greater 4 Seven 5 Ramch 6 Perpendicular 7 Adobe 13 Spa 15 Rug 17 Picture 18 Commute 19 Decay 21 Bread 22 Aptly

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'Skinstad is a marketing man's dream, a phenomenal athlete blessed with good looks and boyish charm' Profile, page 48

Jones takes a giant step to recovery

GWYN JONES is heading towards what the whole of Wales hopes will be a full recovery. The 27-year-old former Wales captain is now able to walk again after being paralysed when he damaged his spinal cord playing for Cardiff in a Welsh League premier division match against Swansea last year.

The injury that ended Jones' career occurred only a week after he led his country for the fifth time against New Zealand at Wembley Stadium and he spent the next five months in hospital. Surgery helped the movement in his arms and legs return gradually, Jones said: "It has been a difficult year and there is still some way to go yet. My balance could be better, but I am able to walk around — mostly with the aid of crutches — and that is a great improvement. But I hope for a full recovery."

TEAMS

ENGLAND: M D Best (Gloucester); T Underwood (Worcestershire); J C Grayson (Leicester); D D Lowe (Leicester); M J Catt (Bath); M J S Dawson (Northampton); J Lancaster (Leicester); R Cusack (Leicester); D J Gifford (Leicester); M O Jackson (Leicester); T A K Barber (Northampton); L E H Salgado (Worcestershire); N A Bask (Leicester); R A Hill (Leicester); R. J. G. Jones (Worcestershire); D I Rose (Gloucester); A D King (Worcestershire); A S Healey (Leicester); M H Cory (Leicester); D J Greenwood (Leicester); G C Parnham (Leicester); P B T Gosseling (State). SOUTH AFRICA: P C Moseley (Western Province); C S Botha (Western Province); A H Grayson (Northern Transvaal); C Stewart (Western Province); P W G Rossouw (Western Province); H W Hoorntje (Northern Transvaal); R E Koozebon (Northern Transvaal); J Dillies (Gauteng); A C Garvey (Free State); K Orie (Northern Transvaal); M G Adonis (Free State); J Erasmus (Free State); R G Smit (Western Province); G H Thabane (Northern Transvaal); P P Smit (Northern Transvaal); W Erasmus (Free State); C P J Burger (Western Province); A P J van der Merwe (Free State); A H de Ruiter (Free State); A E Oudizela (Free State).

US welcomes back Formula One

By KEVIN EASON

FORMULA One will make a return to the United States for the first time in almost a decade by holding a grand prix at Indianapolis, the emotional home of American motor racing. The new US Grand Prix will be held in 2000 on a new \$10 million circuit built inside the famous banked oval especially for the Formula One event.

The deal opens the way for Formula One to attempt to regain a foothold in the world's richest market and a nation that has never truly taken to the complexity of what is regarded, even by the Americans, as the top formula in motor sport.

Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One ringmaster, has been desperate for a return to the United States, but had been unable to find backers in a country obsessed with its own IndyCar and NASCAR racing. However, Tony George, the Indianapolis president, said yesterday that he will invest in a new circuit plus \$6 million to bring a grand prix to his famous speedway.

Even discounting George's hyperbole, Indianapolis does have a special place in motor racing history. In 1909, Carl Fisher decided, after a series of fatal accidents, to replace the crushed stone surface of the 2.5-mile bowl with three million bricks, which gave the circuit its famous "Brickyard" nickname. Now, the surface is traditional asphalt with a single line of bricks at the finish line.

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